

NOVEMBER 5, 1995
COLUMN
computer game
rd off senility
neurologist

CARTAGNA (AFP) — A 42-year-old woman was sentenced to life imprisonment for her seven-year-old daughter by a judge in the southern town of Stuttgart, Germany. The woman, who was found guilty of murdering her daughter, was sentenced to life in prison. The judge said the woman had "acted out of a twisted sense of jealousy."

flowers say
see face of
in NASA photo

WASHINGTON (AP) — A photograph of a man's face appeared on a television screen in a room filled with people. The man's face was shown in a close-up shot, and the people in the room were looking at the screen with interest. The man's face was the focus of the photograph, and the people in the room were looking at it with curiosity.

Mailwoman
finally throw
the sack

RESCO, England (AP) — Eighteen people were rescued from a two-story house in a village in England. The house was on fire, and the people were trapped inside. Firefighters arrived and rescued them. The people were all unharmed. The fire was caused by a faulty gas stove. The house was a two-story building, and the people were trapped on the second floor. The firefighters used ladders to reach them. The people were all rescued safely. The fire was extinguished. The house was damaged. The people were all unharmed. The fire was caused by a faulty gas stove. The house was a two-story building, and the people were trapped on the second floor. The firefighters used ladders to reach them. The people were all rescued safely. The fire was extinguished. The house was damaged. The people were all unharmed. The fire was caused by a faulty gas stove.

Godmother
child with
arsenic-laced
chocolate

STUTTGART, Germany (AP) — A 42-year-old woman was sentenced to life imprisonment for her seven-year-old daughter by a judge in the southern town of Stuttgart, Germany. The woman, who was found guilty of murdering her daughter, was sentenced to life in prison. The judge said the woman had "acted out of a twisted sense of jealousy."

Police arrest brother of Rabin assassin
TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli police have arrested the brother of Yigal Amir, the Jewish extremist who assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, state television reported Sunday. It did not give the brother's name or the reasons for his arrest. A police spokesman refused to comment. Amir, a 27-year-old law student, was to appear before judges Monday when his custody would be extended for two weeks, legal sources said. He told police he had instructions from God to kill Rabin, and said he had also wanted to attack Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in revenge for Israel's autonomy accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Amir fired three bullets into Mr. Rabin at point blank range only minutes after the 73-year-old premier had addressed a peace rally in Tel Aviv late Saturday. (see inside)

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Rabin to be laid to rest today

Shocked Israelis bid farewell to their slain leader

Combined agency dispatches
ISRAEL plunged into shock and uncertainty on Sunday after the slaying of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a fellow Jew at a rally to celebrate peace.

Monarchs, presidents and prime ministers led by U.S. President Bill Clinton announced they would attend the funeral on Monday, anxious that the peace process in which Mr. Rabin was a crucial player does not come adrift.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, Rabin's erstwhile foe who became a partner in peace, decided to stay away from fear of provoking hardliners, a PLO official said.

Caretaker Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who took over after 73-year-old Rabin was gunned down on Saturday night at a Tel Aviv peace rally, vowed to push ahead with Mr. Rabin's legacy of fledgling Middle East peace.

Mr. Rabin was shot twice at point blank range by 27-year-old law student Yigal Amir, who supported Jewish settlement on Palestinian land, security sources said.

Left and right in Israel united temporarily in grief as Mr. Rabin's coffin, draped in Israel's Star of David flag, was brought by generals in a command car from Tel Aviv to lie in state before the Knesset in Jerusalem.

Tens of thousands of mourners, led by Mr. Rabin's widow Leah, filed past the casket raised on a platform through the chill autumn night.

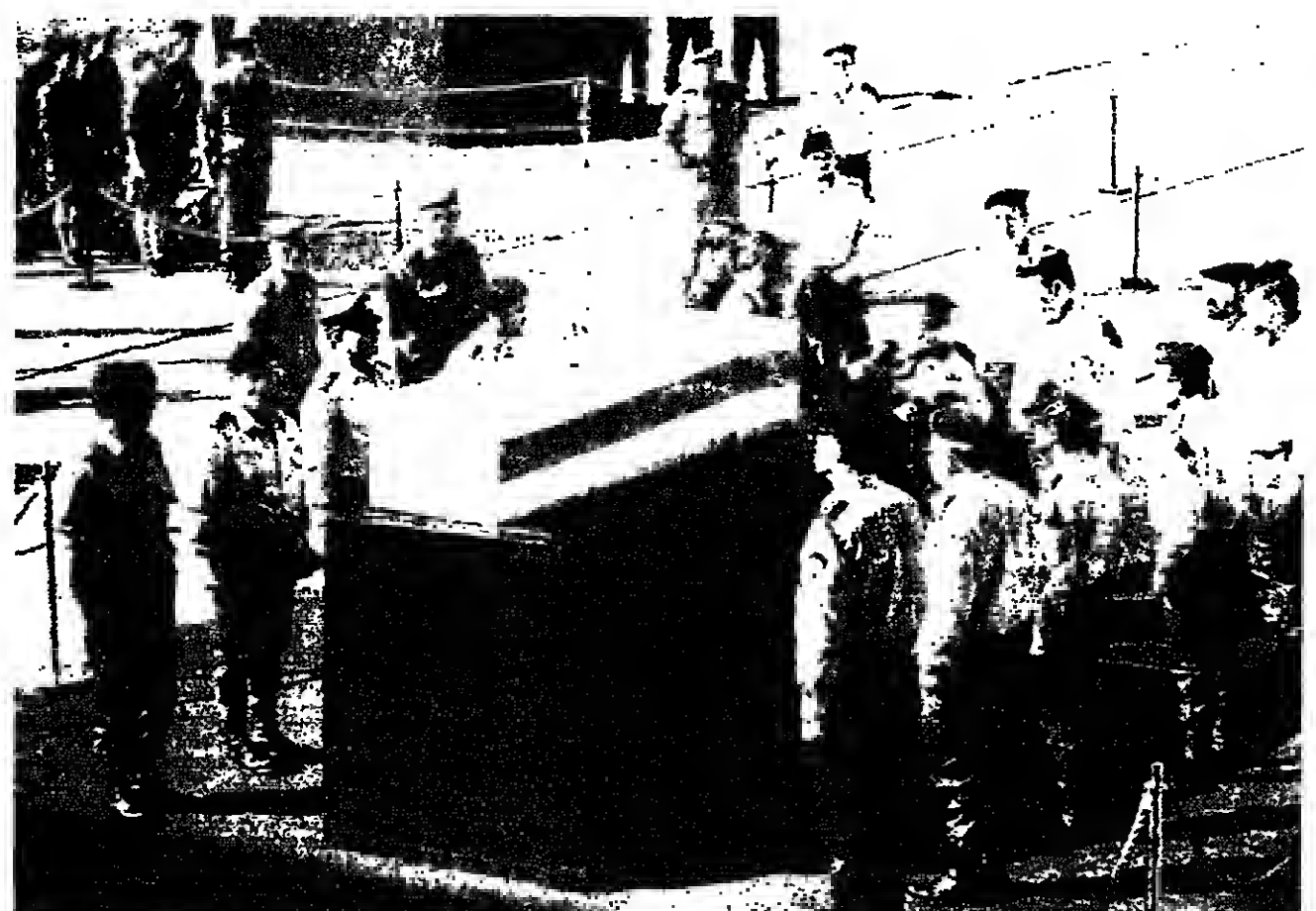
They were stunned that a Jew had gunned down the leader upon whom both Israel and the United States had pinned their hopes of ending half-a-century of Arab-Israeli wars.

Mr. Rabin's death leaves a leadership void in the Labour Party. It also robs Washington, sponsor of Middle East peace, of its regional linchpin.

It was the first assassination of a head of government in the Jewish state created in 1948. Candles were lit in vigils outside Mr. Rabin's home and at the scene of his death, Tel Aviv's Kings of Israel Square. Schoolchildren observed a minute's silence at the start of the school week.

Police commissioner Assaf Hefetz said 10,000 police and soldiers would guard mourners at Monday's funeral at Jerusalem's Mount Herzl military cemetery.

Mr. Rabin, an architect of the 1993 Israeli-PLO peace accord, was shot after telling a rally of more than 100,000 supporters he was ready to take risks for peace.



The coffin of assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin lies on a black stand outside the Israeli Knesset to allow Israelis to pay their homage ahead of Monday's funeral in Jerusalem (AFP photo)

Peres heads transition government

Combined agency dispatches
ISRAELI FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres will form a transition government after the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his appointment will not be opposed by the right-wing Likud party.

Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu made it clear on Sunday that he would not oppose Mr. Peres' appointment, which was agreed at an emergency cabinet meeting following Mr. Rabin's death in Tel Aviv on Saturday.

Mr. Peres, who was deputy prime minister automatically took control until the cabinet meeting, will inherit a cabinet strengthened and united by the death of Mr. Rabin, political analysts said Sunday.

In theory, the government could remain in power until the end of the current parliament in October 1996. Elections are due no later than November 1996.

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh said on Sunday that the ruling left-wing coalition had ruled out holding early elections.

Under the Israeli constitution, the premier's death must lead to the resignation of the government and, after a week of mourning, President Ezer Weizman must consult with party leaders to find a new leader capable of forming a majority in parliament.

The president's candidate then has two periods each of 21 days to hold talks with different groups in parliament before presenting his new government to the head of state.

Mr. Peres can count on the support of a coalition containing 44 Labour deputies, 12 members of the left-wing Meretz party and two from the Yitoud group who de-

fected from a right-wing nationalist party. With the aid of five Arab and communist MP deputies, he will have 63 seats in the 120-seat Knesset, or parliament.

Mr. Netanyahu, anxious not to be seen making political capital out of the assassination, said he would not oppose the choice of Mr. Peres.

Mr. Netanyahu condemned the assassination. "I refuse to believe," he told state television with tears in his eyes.

"It is a terrible tragedy," he said.

(Continued on page 2)

Queen cuts short visit, returns home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor returned home on Sunday after cutting short a visit to South Africa, where she was attending the annual congress of the United World Colleges in her capacity as the president of UWCs. The official media, which reported the Queen's return, did not say why the Queen cut short the visit, but it was believed that she would accompany His Majesty King Hussein to attend the funeral of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Meanwhile His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the special representative of King Hussein, sent cables to Israeli President Ezer Weizman and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres condoling them over the death of Yitzhak Rabin. Prince Mohammad and Princess Taghrid also sent a cable of condolences to the wife and family of Mr. Rabin.

King joins world leaders today at Rabin's funeral

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein will be among the world leaders attending today's funeral of assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in West Jerusalem.

Accompanying the King will be former prime ministers Abdul Salam Majali and Zeid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

"If it Monday, then I'll be there," the King told Israeli army radio.

The King expressed shock and anger at the killing of Mr. Rabin.

"I'm angrier than I've ever been from anything that I've lived through for a very, very long time," he said.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker told a press conference at the Prime Ministry Sunday that the King's attendance at the funeral had no political implications since the event was taking place in West Jerusalem, which is not occupied territory.

Despite the signing of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, King Hussein has not paid an official visit to the Jewish state after he went to Tiberias on Nov. 10, 1994 to exchange the documents of ratification of the treaty with Mr. Rabin.

The King was expected to pay another short visit to Tiberias this week to attend a ceremony where the chief Jordanian and Israeli peace negotiators, Ambassador Fayez Tarawneh and Eliyakim Rubinstein, were to be honoured.

While no official comment was available, it was believed that the ceremony was cancelled following the assassination of Mr. Rabin.

Among other world leaders who are expected to attend the funeral are U.S. President Bill Clinton, former presidents George Bush and Jimmy Carter, Prince Charles of Britain, British Prime Minister John Major, German President Roman Herzog and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, King Hassan of Morocco, French President Jacques Chirac, Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, Portuguese President Mario Soares, Dutch Premier Wim Kok and Japan's Foreign Minister Yohei Kono.

Also due were Spanish head of government Felipe Gonzalez, Canada's Jean Chretien and Italy's Lamber-

to Dini. Presidents Oscar Luigi Scalfaro of Italy, Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia, Kaspar Villiger of Switzerland, and Lenoid Kuchma of Ukraine, as well as Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, also said they would attend.

Other heads of state attending include the presidents of Armenia, Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Moldova and Slovenia. In addition to South Africa, Columbia and Kenya will send their vice presidents.

United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali would also attend the funeral.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is to stay away from the funeral, officials said.

The Palestinian leader will stay in Gaza "for political and security reasons," his spokesman Marwan Kanafani said.

Mr. Mubarak is to be accompanied by Foreign Minister Amr Musa and other Egyptian officials, including leaders of his ruling National Democratic Party.

Mr. Mubarak is known to have visited the Jewish state only once before — a brief stop in the southern Israeli town of Beersheba while he was vice president.

According to unconfirmed Israeli reports Mr. Clinton, King Hussein and Mr. Mubarak are expected to deliver speeches to Israeli members of parliament.

The murdered premier will be buried at the Mount Herzl national cemetery in Jewish West Jerusalem where Zlonis founder Theodor Herzl were reinterred in 1949.

Former prime minister Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir found their last resting place in the panoramic burial ground on the edge of the Jerusalem forest.

The founder of the right-wing Jewish Herut Movement, Zeev Jabotinsky, spiritual father of today's opposition Likud party, is also buried there, as are hundreds of soldiers who fell in Israel's wars against the Arabs.

World denounces assassination

Combined agency dispatches

OUTRAGE AND mourning over the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin poured in from around the world, and most leaders said they hoped Mr. Rabin's struggle for Middle East peace would not be in vain.

A shaken U.S. President Bill Clinton, who brought Mr. Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat together in a historic handshake in 1993, said peace must be the "lasting legacy" of the assassinated prime minister.

Struggling to keep his emotions in check during an appearance in the White House, Rose Garden, Mr. Clinton, his voice breaking, declared: "Let me just say, 'shalom, chaver.' Goodbye friend."

"Peace must be, and peace will be. Prime Minister Rabin's lasting legacy," Mr.

Clinton added. Russian President Boris Yeltsin said that he was deeply saddened by the assassination and that the killing was an attempt to sink the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Officials said Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin would be attending Mr. Rabin's funeral.

"I learnt of the death with deep sorrow," said Mr. Yeltsin, who is being treated for heart trouble in hospital, in a telegram to acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The assassination of Yitzhak Rabin was an attempt to torpedo the movement towards peace and to again plunge the (Middle) East into suffering and blood," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"I am convinced that the cause for which Rabin sacrificed his entire life will continue," Mr. Yeltsin added, calling Mr. Rabin "an illustrious statesman whose name will always go down in history."

"Those responsible for his death are guilty of a despicable crime and must be brought to justice," said former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who brought Israel and Egypt together at Camp David in the groundbreaking peace talks in 1978.

"But in the wake of this tragedy, the peace process must continue," Mr. Carter said. "My hope is that Israelis and Palestinians will come together and reaffirm their commitment to the peace process that Prime Minister Rabin helped start and that those left behind must finish."

In Rome, Pope John Paul II expressed "grief and worry" for peace.

World leaders noted Mr. Rabin was only the latest peacemaker in the Middle East to die for his efforts.

"It is tragic that exactly political personalities who strive for peace and reconciliation are victims of attacks," German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said.

"This happened with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, and now also with Rabin," British Prime Minister John Major mourned Mr. Rabin as a man who dedicated his life to peace while French President Jacques Chirac mourned the 73-year-old Rabin as a "great statesman" and expressed confidence his assassination would not derail the Middle East peace process.

In Asia, the governments of Japan, China, South Korea, Taiwan, India, Singapore and Indonesia condemned the killing.

Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama paid tribute to Mr. Rabin and called his murder a huge loss for Middle East peace.

China's Premier Li Peng voiced deep sorrow at the assassination and Beijing said it hoped the Middle East peace process would continue.

Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Austria, Portugal, Sweden and Brazil also expressed outrage over the murder.

South African President Nelson Mandela urged Israelis and Palestinians to honour Mr. Rabin by ensuring that their peace process was not sustained with vigour.

Mr. Mandela will not attend Monday's funeral, instead sending Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad, a foreign affairs spokesman said.

Mr. Mandela described the killing of Mr. Rabin as a "criminal act" carried out by those "who have no interest in the genuine welfare of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples."

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, a key negotiator of the first treaty between Israel and an Arab country, praised Mr. Rabin for his "wisdom and vision" in seeking peace in the Middle East.

Dr. Ghali condemned the assassination as an "outrageous act of terror" which claimed the life of "one of the greatest leaders in Israeli history."

As an Egyptian diplomat, Dr. Ghali helped negotiate the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. It was the first peace agreement between an Arab country and the Jewish state.

"I pay tribute to the wisdom and vision of Prime Minister Rabin, whose unwavering commitment to his country and whose recognition of the need for Israelis and Arabs alike to put behind the hostility and bloodshed which had poisoned the region for decades, led to the peace treaty between Israel and an Arab country, praised Mr. Rabin for his 'wisdom and vision' in seeking peace in the Middle East.

(Continued on page 9)

Rightists nurture ground for hatred in Israeli politics

TEL AVIV (R) — Small, extreme right-wing Israeli groups breathing fire against peace with the Palestinians created a fertile ground of hate for the long gunman who killed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Saturday.

The alleged assassin, named by police as Yigal Amir, 25, told investigators he acted of God's command. Amir is a student at Tel Aviv's religious Bar Ilan University, where a shadowy group called Eyal, whose name is an acronym for the Fighting Jewish Organisation, is based.

"We know him from activities but he does not belong to our unit and we deny any connection to the incident and condemn any such action," the group's leader, Bar Ilan philosophy student Avishai Ravid, said.

Israel outlawed the most notorious extremist groups, the anti-Arab Kach and Kahane Lives, after a Jewish settler once affiliated with Kach gunned down at least 30 Palestinians in a mosque in the West Bank town of Hebron in February 1994.

Despite the crackdown, Mr. Rabin refused to disarm gun-toting settlers or remove them from Palestinian population centres, where their presence is a constant source of conflict.

Kach, a racist Jewish supremacy group, was founded by American-Israeli Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was shot dead by an Arab in New York in 1990. It found support among the most extreme, heavily-armed Jewish settlers in the West Bank.

The two groups aimed their venom as much at leaving Jews they accused of betraying their own people as against Arabs.

A Kach supporter who told Israel Television last month: "Rabin is endangering the lives of Jews, creating a terrorist state and talking severe measures, so he shouldn't be surprised if harsh measures are also taken against him."

Eyal and another secretive group, the Sword of David, have issued threats in anonymous leaflets and telephone calls to the media in recent years.

Last January, army radio reported Sword of David had issued a leaflet saying Mr. Rabin deserved to die, calling

him a traitor who allowed Jewish blood to be spilled. The extremist groups share with the mainstream settlement movement that represents some \$140,000 Israelis living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip a belief that the lands seized in the 1967 Middle East war are the Jews' by biblical birthright.

But unlike the mainstream groups, they advocate violence if necessary, even against Jews, to defend their aims.

Spokesman for the mainstream settlement group and for the opposition Likud Party, while vowing to resist Palestinian rule, have always stressed that Jews should not shed Jewish blood.

Two Jewish extremist groups, recruited among militant settlers, were dismantled in the early 1980s after carrying out attacks on Arabs and plotting to blow up Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque.

In 1983, a lone right-wing extremist threw a hand grenade into a Peace Now movement rally, killing one demonstrator.

But neither the so-called Jewish underground nor the Likud group ever attacked Israeli politicians.

Ironically, that fact may have given Amir his opportunity to kill Mr. Rabin, defeating a security service trained to guard against Arabs rather than Jews.

Israeli security men are expert at keeping Arabs away from the country's leaders, but the Jewish public is allowed close contact with politicians in this boisterous democracy.

"I acted alone on God's orders and I have no regrets," Israel radio quoted Amir as telling police investigators.

Israel Television showed Amir, dark-haired and of small build, thronged by police minutes after he shot Mr. Rabin at close range at the closing of a large peace rally in Tel Aviv's central square.

A police spokesman said Amir, of Herzliya north of Tel Aviv, appeared to have acted alone and had twice before planned to kill Mr. Rabin.

Police said Amir was a third-year student in law and computers at Bar-Ilan University — a stronghold of

religious and right-wing Jews identified with political groups opposed to Israel's peace agreements with the Palestinians.

They said Amir had worked abroad three years ago as an envoy for an Israeli government agency.

The gathering of more than 100,000 Rabin supporters was guarded by hundreds of police, alerted that opposition groups might try to disrupt it.

Army radio said Amir told police he had been planning the assassination for a long time and had come close to trying twice before, but had been deterred by the presence of security guards.

"I wanted to do it in the past but failed because the security was too good," the radio quoted Amir as telling police. "This time I succeeded."

A police ministry spokesman said: "From his statements it seems he was working alone and had planned in the past to assassinate the prime minister on two separate occasions."

He said the two attempts were at the opening recently of a new highway interchange in January, the day of the Beit Lid massacre, when Mr. Rabin was visiting the Yad Vashem memorial.

"He did not carry out these attacks. Today he decided of his own accord and he travelled there by bus. He picked his moment and fired three shots. He has expressed no regret."

His father is a scribe, who handwrites holy scriptures, and his mother, a nursery school teacher. The domestic Israeli news agency ITIM said Amir was the second of eight children.

The reporters said Amir was involved in right-wing activities including settlements in the West Bank. But they said he had no police record.

The family lived in Herzliya, where a neighbour described the family as "very tolerant".

In shock, the neighbour said: "It's a family of eight children, a religious family, but very tolerant. It's impossible to speak of extremism. The family was a foundation of education for the entire neighbourhood."

leader, told the radio. "But he is not a member of our movement and we deny any connection to the incident, and condemn such actions."

Government spokesman Uri Dromi linked Amir to the right-wing which has stridently opposed Israel's peace-making with Palestinians and plans to withdraw from most West Bank towns and villages by the end of the year.

"He belonged to some Jewish organisation which is anti-government and against the peace process," Dromi said.

Amir told interrogators that he acted alone, police sources told the Associated Press. The suspect said he had planned to kill Mr. Rabin for a long time and had "no regrets."

Police said Amir had tried two times before to get at Rabin, once at after militant suicide bombers killed 21 Israelis on Jan. 20.

Even though Amir claimed to be acting alone, security sources indicated the shooting was expected to trigger a crackdown on right-wing extremists especially those associated with Kach.

Right-wing extremists gathered briefly at the hospital to condemn Mr. Rabin, even while he was fighting for his life. "Rabin is a murderer," they shouted.

There are an estimated 200 to 300 hard-core activists who could be targeted if the government launches a crackdown.

In recent weeks, security had been tightened around Mr. Rabin with mounting concern for the prime minister and cabinet members because of extreme right-wing rhetoric vowing an all-out effort to stop Israel from handing the West Bank to the Palestinians.

Palestinians divided

(Continued from page 14)

to the peace process," said Waked Abu Arkoub, 45, in Nabulus. "I hope the Israeli government will speed the process as a respect to Rabin."

Mr. Abu Arkoub added: "The killing of Rabin by an Israeli is proof to the Israeli government and people that there are extremist Israelis who will shed blood as they please."

"I was saddened by the news. Rabin was a peace-maker and we're living in an era of peace," said Hussein Tawfik, 32, owner of a boutique in Gaza.

"Rabin instigated the policies to break the bones of the Palestinians during the intifada, but he made a huge U-turn towards peace," said Gaza trader Imad Abu Ramadan.

"The consequences of this murder will be felt within Israeli society but will not delay the peace process."

Fauzi Said, a 50-year-old tailor in Gaza, said: "The assassination proves that terrorism still exists in Israel as well. The Palestinians are against political killings."

Nabulus writer Mazen Doueikat echoed his words: "Rabin's murder will not have any effect, neither positive nor negative, on the peace process but will show

that Israel has begun to suffer internal terrorism."

"Israel, which was an example of democracy for the whole world, will suffer from bloodshed," said Khaled Odeh, 33, a Bethlehem businessman.

Hamas and the Islamic Jihad blamed the Israeli right-wing for inciting Mr. Rabin's murder.

GCC ministers regret Rabin's death

(Continued from page 14)

In Cairo, Arab League head Esmat Abdul Meguid condemned "all acts of terrorism and assassination."

"Such acts place obstacles and difficulties before the realisation of stability and security in the Middle East," Dr. Abdul Meguid said when asked about Mr. Rabin's murder.

The secretary general said the "achievement of peace and stability according to international law and the principle of land for peace will put an immediate end to such phenomena," in a statement released to the press.

Nations in the region "must work towards everything which creates an atmosphere which accelerates the

peace process."

Secretariat spokesman Talat Hamed said Dr. Abdul Meguid would not attend funeral services.

"As secretary general of the league, most of whose members do not have diplomatic relations with Israel, Abdul Meguid cannot go to the Jewish state," Mr. Hamed said.

Hamas sees major changes in Israel

(Continued from page 14)

that an Israeli Labour government, strengthened by the killing of Mr. Rabin, will be able to move forward in the peace process with more determination.

"Rabin will probably be replaced by (Foreign Minister Shimon) Peres, and Peres is neither as strong nor as decisive as Rabin was," Mr. Ghosheh said.

Pointing out that Mr. Rabin had enjoyed the support of a large sector of Israeli society including the army, Mr. Ghosheh said that no other Israeli leader will be able to muster that same degree of support from Israelis again.

He said that the peace march will also suffer a setback as a result of Mr. Rabin's death. Asked whether his movement was surprised that the first politi-

cal victim of the Middle East peace process was an Israeli leader and not an Arab, Mr. Ghosheh said that many expected that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat would be assassinated, "but we knew that that was not going to happen."

The Palestinian opposition and the Palestinian leadership had worked to avoid any such thing happening in our midst," Mr. Ghosheh said in an implicit reference to negotiations aimed at maintaining some harmony in Palestinian politics.

"Many were betting on the divisions in the Palestinian scene but the Palestinian resistance was not working to break up our own structure at such an important time in our history," Mr. Ghosheh said.

IAF 'rejoices'
The Islamic Action Front

(IAF) meanwhile issued a statement rejecting over the assassination of Mr. Rabin, predicting that "the Jewish society will witness more internal explosions."

"We were dismayed by the sorrow expressed by some Arabs and Muslims over the assassination of Rabin who they claim was an advocate of peace," said the statement.

"But," it said, "these people ignore the fact that it was Rabin who served as army chief-of-staff in Israel during the 1967 war, that he who masterminded the policy of bone-breaking of Palestinians, that it was he who ordered the deportation of Palestinian resistance people to Marj Al Zuhur in Lebanon, that it was he who ordered the imprisonment of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, that it was he who ordered the assassination of Fathi Sha-

qaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad movement, and that it was he who committed many other crimes throughout his life."

"If some Arabs had forgotten Rabin's crimes, we have not forgotten them and will never forget them," said the statement, adding: "We are delighted at Rabin's assassination and we believe that the society of the Jews will witness more internal explosions because what has been called the peace process was not based on the principles of justice and right."

The peace process, said the statement, has been based on the imposition of the will of the victory on the vanquished, "the struggle against the Jews and the Zionists will continue until God gives us victory and then all the faithful will rejoice over God-given victory," it said.

American Jewry in shock over Rabin

NEW YORK (R) — The assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sent shock waves through American Jewry — the world's biggest Jewish community — with many worrying whether the peace process he started might die with him.

But several American Jewish leaders said the murder of the 73-year-old former general could have the opposite effect of the assassin's apparent intent, strengthening instead of halting the peace process.

Others said that Mr. Rabin's loss was the worst possible because without his moral force, Israel's will to continue on the road to peace could waver and perhaps disintegrate.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people, many of them weeping and holding candles, descended on the Israeli consulate in Manhattan Saturday night to pay their respects.

The Israeli consul-general in New York, Colette Avital, told reporters that when Rabin was here for the United Nations' 50th anniversary last month, she asked him if he was afraid for his life because of escalating verbal attacks against him.

"He shrugged and said he lived through more difficult situations in his life. He said he had a mission to fulfil," she said.

"Obviously, the man who assassinated him wanted to kill the peace process."

Dozens of U.S. Jewish leaders made plans to fly to Israel for Mr. Rabin's funeral, putting aside whatever differences they had over the peace process he conducted.

Just a few weeks ago, Mr. Rabin found himself scolding some U.S. Jewish leaders for opposing his efforts with harsh words that he claimed undercut his efforts.

Many Jewish leaders said the killing showed that the "verbal" violence that has accompanied Mr. Rabin's peace efforts had clearly gotten out of hand.

"This senseless act of violence completely against Jewish values, followed a campaign of verbal violence launched over the past months by extremists both in Israel and in the diaspora," said Leon Levy, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, an umbrella group of U.S. Jewry.

Mr. Levy and his group's executive vice chairman, Malcolm Hoenlein, called on Jews to stop their escalating rhetorical wars because it "can lead to terrible deeds, such as the one perpetrated today in Tel Aviv."

Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel told Reuters:

"What worries me is the hatred. We knew there was a great debate between those who wanted peace and those who did not. And now you see the results — the face of hatred and the face of hatred is death."

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles, said he was shocked that Mr. Rabin's killer was a Jew.

"This is not the Jewish way," he said. "I am embarrassed that a Jew had to bring down with a bullet the prime minister of Israel."

Rabbi Rachmiel Liberman, who heads an orthodox Jewish congregation just outside of Boston, said he thought Mr. Rabin's death "will bring halt to the peace process. It will bring a light the deep split in the Jewish community."

Rabbi Liberman was one of 1,000 signers of a recent declaration that called the peace process a danger to Israel, likening it to the 1938 Munich agreement.

Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, said: "In a perverse kind of way, I think the assassination will ultimately strengthen the peace process because Israelis will want peace to be lasting legacy for Rabin. The Jewish community in Israel and around the world is in a deep state of

shock in a way I just cannot recall."

In New York, Robert Braun, 24, an employee of the American Zionist Youth Foundation, said he thought the assassination "is something that will change the whole Middle East scene."

"Not everyone was happy with Rabin's policies, but I think he was a great soldier," he said. "He was a soldier of war and peace who died a martyr for peace."

Mr. Braun called the assassination of Mr. Rabin "the worst thing that ever happened." "I'm completely destroyed," he said.

"I don't think it will derail peace talks, peace will continue. But I think extremist groups must be condemned by both Arab and Jews. They must be fought on every level."

Outside Anshe Chesed, a conservative synagogue, shocked and tearful congregating members were gathered spontaneously at the temple, said businessman David Fishman.

Mr. Fishman likened the assassination to the murder of President John F. Kennedy and called it "national tragedy" for Israel that "brings to mind the destruction of the temple and throws Israeli politics into great confusion."

He said he did not think

the killing by a lone gunman would derail the peace process, but feared there could be a "danger of both sides taking revenge."

Fears for Israel's political future and grief over divisions within Israeli society was a theme sounded by many.

"We need to find a way to bring back a fundamental unity — without it, there could be a civil war," Mr. Braun said.

Muriel Madow, 79, voiced a similar fear. "I'm afraid there's going to be a civil war. I don't think secular Jews will accept the right-wing's actions," she said.

Others said although they disagreed with violence, they understood the frustrations of Israel's extreme right.

"I think the government will realise they did not do enough to include right-wing elements in the peace process, and they need somehow to be included in formulating a relationship with the Palestinians," said Roger Swarth, a 46-year-old businessman who spent time on an Israeli Kibbutz in 1969.

All over New York, sadness prevailed.

"Any Jews you talk to will be sobbing," said Nahid Rad outside a synagogue.

Hardliners rejoice over Rabin's death

Combined agency dispatches

HARDLINERS in the Arab camp on Sunday welcomed the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, with some suggesting that it should be an Arab who have killed the Israeli premier.

Libya's official media announced that "terrorist Yitzhak Rabin" was dead.

According to the official Libyan news agency JANA "the terrorist Rabin was killed by gun shots while attending a gathering in Tel Aviv."

"The terrorist Rabin is one of those who had committed odious crimes against the Palestinian people and who participated in all the terrorist massacres targeting Arabs," JANA said.

The agency listed all the military roles Mr. Rabin filled before the creation of the Israeli state in 1948 through the beginning of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories in 1987.

In Lebanon, shots rang out across major cities and people danced in the streets in Palestinian refugee camps to celebrate the news of the prime minister's death.

The Iranian-backed Hizbollah, pro-Syrian and Palestinian leaders praised the assassination as a "miracle" from God and pledged to continue the armed struggle against Israel.

"We are happy over the death of this tyrant but our happiness would have been greater had we killed him ourselves," Hizbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah said at a rally.

Mosques in south Beirut, a Hizbollah stronghold, held special prayers for loud-

speakers and the speaker of the Shiite Muslim fundamentalist group's Manar television smiled broadly as he reported the assassination.

Youth television, run by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, broke into its regular programming overnight Saturday to announce Mr. Rabin's assassination.

The other official television and radio outlets waited until morning to broadcast the event.

Babel newspaper, also run by Uday, headlined on Sunday with the Koranic verse: "Wherever you are, death can reach you, even in ivory towers."

Ramadan Abdullah, the new leader of Islamic Jihad, said: "I do not regret the death of the foremost head of terrorism in the world."

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani called the assassination "divine revenge" for the killing of Shaqaqi.

Mr. Rafsanjani was quoted by Tehran radio as saying in parliament: "Rabin, who had expressed happiness about the assassination of Shaqaqi, was assassinated himself. And that by a Jew and in the centre of Zionist power."

"That is nothing but a clear example of divine revenge for oppressors and is a manifestation of God's show of force."

In Cairo, an anti-government protest held by nearly 5,000 Islamic fundamentalist students turned into a demonstration against Israel as they celebrated the killing.

"Muslims, it's the vengeance of God," students at Cairo University chanted.

"Peres is like Rabin, they're all cursed Jews," and "Wake up, students, the Jews are at the gates."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres became acting prime minister after Mr. Rabin was gunned down late Saturday.

In Baghdad, Iraq's state-run Al Qadisiya newspaper ran a headline in red ink to announce "the assassination of the prime minister of the Zionist enemy."

A Lebanese Christian opposition newspaper said Mr. Rabin was doomed to be gunned down because of the "crimes" he committed against Arabs.

"This assassination should not make us forget that Jewish fundamentalism and moderation are the same side of the coin and represent Israeli hegemony," said Al Diyar newspaper.

Syria made no official comment on the assassination, but diplomats expected Damascus to pursue a peace settlement with Israel despite his killing.

"I do not think that Rabin's killing would affect Syria's position on the peace talks. Syria will deal with any Israeli leader who is ready to work for a just and comprehensive peace in the region," a Damascus-based diplomat said.

"All what Syria wants from any leader who is in charge in Israel is implementation of U.N. resolutions calling for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands," he said.

Cairo newspapers expressed a mixture of surprise and relief that the assassin who gunned down Mr. Rabin was a Jew.

"Egypt reaffirms its rejection of all acts of violence and terrorism, whoever is responsible," President Hosni Mubarak said.

Foreign Minister Amr

Musa affirmed the Rabin murder "a dangerous development in Israel and the region" since it "comes as a result of the use of violence by Jewish extremists."

Peres heads transition cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

one of the biggest disasters to hit this nation since it was created in 1948," he added, hailing Mr. Rabin as "one of the greatest fighters for the rebirth of Israel."

The assassination had presented "Israeli democracy with one of its greatest tests," he added, calling for unity to rid all those violating one of the basic commandments: "Thou shalt not kill."

Political analysts said that the defence portfolio, which was also held by Mr. Rabin, could now be handed to General Ehud Barak, the widely respected former military chief of staff.

Some analysts tipped the foreign minister's job to go to Haim Ramon, general secretary of the Histadrut trade union and a close supporter of Mr. Peres who is said to be dovish on relations with the Palestinians.

Others, however, said it was possible that Mr. Peres could retain the title of foreign minister, in the same way that Mr. Rabin combined the premiership with the defence job.

Deprived of his charismatic leadership, the Labour Party will now have to redefine its strategy for the next general election when it meets at its annual congress in March.

Alongside the general election, Israelis will also for the first time directly elect their country's leader in November

next year.

Analysts said Mr. Peres, 72, who has never enjoyed massive public support, in Israel, was unlikely to be the party's best chance of beating Mr. Netanyahu.

Mr. Ramon, a popular union leader, has high hopes of taking the top job one day.

The transitional government Peres now leads has all the authority of a regular government.

But members cannot be added or subtracted from a transitional government and parliament cannot vote it out of power with a no-confidence vote.

The president has to ask a member of parliament to form a new government. The law gives him the discretion to appoint any of its 120 members. However, tradition dictates he appoints the person with the best chances of forming a new administration.

An Arab member of the Knesset said that his group, which backed the government of Mr. Rabin, will also stand firmly behind Mr. Peres.

Abdul Wahab Al Darawashah told reporters on arrival in Cairo for a private visit that the five Arab members of the Knesset, who sometimes offered crucial support to Mr. Rabin's government, were hopeful that Mr. Peres would be more flexible in negotiations with the Palestinians.

Rabin assassin also wanted to kill Peres

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A Jewish extremist who assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was also aiming to gun down Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Sunday.

Mr. Shahal told the Labour parliamentary group: "At this stage of the inquiry we know according to his testimony that the assassin intended to kill Rabin and Peres."

A 27-year-old law student, Yigal Amir, was arrested straight after he fired three bullets into Mr. Rabin, 73, after a peace rally in Tel Aviv.

He told police he "had instructions from God to kill the prime minister."

Mr. Peres, 72, took part with Mr. Rabin in the rally in the Kings of Israel Square in Tel Aviv. With the announcement of Mr. Rabin's death, he automatically took over the reins of government and was appointed acting prime minister.

Amir fired as Mr. Rabin walked down off the stage outside the city hall, hitting him in the chest, spine and spleen. The premier was rushed to hospital but declared dead on the operating table.

Amir told interrogators that he had no regrets. When told that Mr. Rabin had died on the operating table, Amir told his interrogators: "I'm satisfied," according to Israel radio.

Amir is a bachelor, a reserve soldier in the army's elite Golani Brigade and lives in the town of Herzliya, just north of Tel Aviv. At one time, Amir worked as a security guard and carried a licensed pistol, radio reports said.



Yigal Amir

Amir is a third-year law student at Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv, a religious school. Amir was friends with activists from a far-right group, "Eyal," headed by Avishai Ravid, a student of philosophy at Bar Ilan, the radio said.

A fellow student of Amir's, identified only as Erik, told the radio that Amir was getting increasingly agitated by a series of shooting and bombing attacks by Muslim militants in Israel.

"After every attack ... there were demonstrations. He (Amir) would say, 'we have to stick it to Rabin and his government.' This man expressed himself for quite a long time in a very extremist manner," Eric said.

With members of the group, Amir would distribute anti-government leaflets and attend anti-government rallies.

Eyal is an offshoot of the radical, anti-Arab Kach movement

Rabin - a general who opted for peace after decades of war

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, assassinated at a peace rally on Saturday, sealed an accord handing over much of the West Bank to the Palestinians last month and was seen as a traitor by hardline Jewish groups.

He was also reviled by Palestinian hardliners who accused him of giving the green light for last month's killing of Fathi Shuqari, head of the Islamic Jihad group which opposes Israel's peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The 73-year-old former army chief shared the Nobel Peace Prize for his 1993 groundbreaking interim deal with long-shunned PLO leader Yasser Arafat, 66. Last year he signed a treaty with Jordan after 46 years of a state of belligerence.

No other Israelis except his Labour Party rival Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, 72, and President Ezer Weizman, 71, have played so large a role in present-day Israeli public life for so long.

In 1967, Mr. Rabin led Israel in the war against Jordan, Egypt and Syria and brought Palestinians under Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza.

Now as prime minister a generation later, he has taken strides toward peace at an equally swift and surprising pace.

Explaining his readiness to hand over occupied land to Palestinians, Mr. Rabin told Israel's Maariv newspaper in an interview: "We want to have a Jewish state and not a bi-national state."

The gravel-voiced former general came to power in 1992 vowing to speed up peace moves. Far more pragmatic than visionary, he said Israel had to take calculated risks for peace.

He vowed to topple psychological barriers. Yet many were baffled when it emerged that he had

approved the secret deal with the PLO — an organisation Israeli governments had for years branded a terrorist group seeking the destruction of the Jewish state.

"What can we do? Peace you don't make with friends, but with very unsympathetic enemies. I won't try to make the PLO look good. It was an enemy, it remains an enemy, but negotiations must be with enemies," Mr. Rabin said months ago.

When Mr. Rabin shook Mr. Arafat's hand on the White House lawn in 1993, critics accused him of breaking every important promise he had ever made. Supporters praised him for bold leadership.

But his politics have puzzled Israelis for decades. His army credentials made him popular with his war-hardened countrymen. But it was sometimes hard to tell: Was he a hawk or a dove?

Mr. Rabin was born in Jerusalem, British-ruled Palestine, in 1922. He joined the Jewish Palmach military underground at age 18. After World War II, he helped free illegal Jewish immigrants in Palestine and in 1946 the British jailed him for six months in the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Rabin left the army after 27 years to enter public life in 1968, first as ambassador to Washington and, from 1974 to 1977, as Israel's only "Sabra" or Jerusalem-born prime minister.

His first government fell amid a scandal over an illegal foreign bank account held by his wife, but Mr. Rabin remained powerful enough in the Labour Party to win the defence minister's job in a coalition formed in 1984.

When in 1987 Palestinians of the occupied territories launched a popular uprising for independence, Mr. Rabin responded with an "iron fist" policy. He vowed to fight with "might, power and beatings."

But he also pushed for

peace with Palestinians, drafting plans put forward by hardline Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Their coalition crumbled in 1990 when Mr. Shamir refused to go the distance.

In 1992 Mr. Rabin came back to smash Mr. Shamir, putting former generals in the front line of a tough campaign that portrayed Labour as the party of both peace and security.

Entering office, Mr. Rabin offered to meet his Arab enemies in their capitals and froze much of Jewish settlement in the occupied territories.

His bold moves mended frayed relations with the United States, Israel's closest ally, and with Egypt, which had signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Mr. Rabin told his people it was time to discard old fears rooted in the Nazi Holocaust and the 100-year conflict to secure their state.

"No longer are we necessarily 'a people that dwell alone,' and no longer is it true that 'the whole world is against us,'" Mr. Rabin said after his 1992 election victory.

Mr. Rabin's tough record against Arabs made many Israelis trust him with the risks involved in peacemaking.

As a young officer in the 1948 war, he oversaw the expulsion of 50,000 Palestinian men, women and children from coastal areas.

As chief of staff in 1967, he planned the lightning war when Israel captured the lands whose return he is negotiating. And as defence minister in 1988, he ordered troops to break the bones of Palestinians revolting against occupation, arguing it would keep down the death toll.

Despite nearly 30 years of experience as a politician, Mr. Rabin was uneasy in social situations, nervously smoking and sipping whiskey at cocktail parties or blushing

when stepping in front of reporters' microphones.

His political rivals said he had a nervous breakdown on the eve of the 1967 war, and he himself admitted in his biography to an unexplained feeling of fatigue.

Mr. Rabin was born March 1, 1922, in Jerusalem into a socialist family. In high school, he joined the Palmach underground army. At 26, he commanded the Harel brigades.

Seeing Jerusalem nearly fall, he decided to make the military his career. "What motivated me to remain in the army was that we must never again get into a war unprepared, as we did in the war of independence," Mr. Rabin said recently.

He moved up quickly, serving as army chief of staff from 1963 to 1968, followed by a four-year stint as Israel's ambassador to Washington.

In 1974, Israel's ruling Labour Party designated Mr. Rabin, then a political freshman, to succeed Prime Minister Golda Meir who had to step down after leading Israel to the brink of disaster in the 1973 war.

Three years later, Mr. Rabin himself had to resign over his wife Leah's illegal U.S. bank account, and he also lost leadership of the party to Mr. Peres.

With the 1977 election victory of the right-wing Likud Party, Mr. Rabin moved to the sidelines for seven years, but in 1984 was called back and served for six years as defence minister in Labour-Likud coalition governments.

Mr. Rabin believed he had a much stronger mandate in his second term as prime minister because he was elected by the people rather than being picked out by a handful of party manipulators.

That gave him the confidence to make fateful decisions alone after seeking advice only from a few trusted generals.



Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres holds a press conference in Tel Aviv early Sunday in front of a photo of His Majesty King Hussein lighting a cigarette for late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (AFP file photo)

Further delays seen in Syrian, Lebanese tracks

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Yitzhak Rabin's violent past appears likely to further delay Israel's stalled peace negotiations with Lebanon and Syria.

Israel's new leader, Shimon Peres, will have to form a government, work with the Palestinians on expanding their autonomy, and prepare for an election in about a year's time.

All these factors weigh against Israel launching new initiatives to break the deadlock in peace talks with Syria and Lebanon.

In addition, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who is also the main power-broker in Lebanon, is not expected to make any decisive moves until the political situation in Israel settles down.

Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Bouze said that Mr. Rabin's killing would probably result in a "freezing of options and major political decisions" in Israel.

"At least in the short range there will be complications," he told reporters Sunday. "But in the long run the importance of the decisions will carry the day."

On Friday, the day before Mr. Rabin was killed, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Israel was not ready to push forward on peace talks with Syria until the spring of 1996.

Syria's state-run media reported Mr. Rabin's assassination but did not immediately comment on it. However, Syrian soldiers stationed in Beirut joined Lebanese in spontaneous celebration, with some shooting their guns in the air and chanting "Hafez Hafez" a reference to the Syrian leader.

While Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians have signed peace accords with Israel, the on-and-off negotiations with Lebanon and Syria have

yielded little progress.

The key issue is the Golan Heights, the strategic plateau that Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war.

Mr. Rabin said Israel was willing to discuss withdrawing from the territory, but Israel wants to maintain a security foothold. Mr. Assad says Israel must return all of the Golan Heights before there can be peace.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met with Mr. Assad last week in the Syrian capital of Damascus, but there are no plans to resume negotiations, which have been deadlocked for several months.

Both sides have accused the other of stalling. "Yitzhak Rabin paid the price for his policy of hesitation... he missed the opportunity because he was a man of indecision," said Lebanese Culture Minister Michel Edde, an expert of Israeli affairs.

Mr. Edde said Mr. Rabin, with his military background, was seen as a more credible peace negotiator, and he believed that Mr. Peres will have less public support.

"Nobody should expect that there will be progress with Peres... If Rabin couldn't deliver, how could Peres?"

The Israeli military maintains a self-declared security zone in South Lebanon, and the Israeli forces and their allies regularly clash with Lebanese fighters.

However, Mr. Bouze said he did not expect any escalation of hostilities since Mr. Rabin's killing was a right-wing Israeli.

"The question now is will Peres continue on the road he inherited from Rabin or will he call early elections to secure a cover and guarantees to resume the negotiations," he said.

Peres embraces Rabin and his political stands

TEL AVIV (R) — Minutes before a gunman killed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli leader stood before a peace rally hugging Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, his longtime rival.

"You see," Mr. Rabin told reporters. "Things change not only in the world but also in the Middle East — also for us."

"We are hugging for peace," Mr. Peres said. They fought each other politically for decades. But when only a short time later Mr. Peres assumed the reins of power, he mourned the slain Rabin as "a friend, a partner, a leader."

Somehow, in the last years of Mr. Rabin's life, the two white-haired leaders had found a way to make peace with each other and history with the Palestinians and Jordan.

In 1994 they shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, long branded a terrorist by Israel.

"Three years we walked together in deep friendship... for the peace, for the state," Mr. Peres told a news conference after Mr. Rabin was gunned down.

It was not an easy match: "Mr. Rabin, 73, a gravelly-voiced warrior-turned-peacemaker, and Mr. Peres, 72, the perpetual prophet of peace long tagged a dreamer and a schemer by war-hardened Israelis."

Though an orator and a diplomat welcome in many places across the world, Mr. Peres has long seemed out of place on Israel's political stage, his visions of a new and flourishing Middle East rarely taken seriously in Israel.

He appeared better suited to academia than politics. Failed bids to win elections, weld coalitions and garner support for secret peace plans gave him a reputation as a loser and a schemer. The rivalry with Mr. Rabin only made things worse.

In 1992 Mr. Rabin seized the Labour Party from Mr. Peres and led it to decisive victory, something Mr. Peres failed to do in four tries. But Mr. Rabin could not ignore Mr. Peres or his years of experience.

Mr. Rabin grudgingly gave Mr. Peres the job of foreign minister while keeping for himself the headline-grabbing job of managing Israel's direct talks with the Arabs.

The discovery that the two Israeli arch-foes collaborated to clinch the peace was as surprising as the secret PLO deal itself sealed in September 1993.

Arriving in Israel from his native Poland at age 11, Mr. Peres began his public career in his 20s before Israel's creation in 1948.

Israeli founding father David Ben-Gurion groomed Mr. Peres for leadership, drafting him into the headquarters of the Hagana, the

pre-state army, to oversee arms purchases and manpower.

From 1952 to 1965 he built up Israel's defences, first as director-general of the defence ministry and then as deputy defence minister. Over the years he held various cabinet posts, including defence minister, foreign minister and finance minister.

Under an unusual power-sharing arrangement between Labour and the hardline Likud Party, Mr. Peres did a 25-month turn as prime minister from 1984-86.

Despite his loser image and feuds with Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir, Mr. Peres was popular in the top job. An opinion poll at the time found a record 74 per cent of Israeli voters viewed him as a good leader.

With Mr. Peres as prime minister, Israel pulled its troops back from Lebanon, normalised relations with Egypt and cut inflation from 444.9 per cent a year in 1984 to under 20 per cent in 1986.

Mr. Peres published several books, including one after the peace deal on his vision of a new Middle East. He and his wife Sonia have three children.

After being named acting prime minister, Mr. Peres said: "There is nothing else that we can do... but to continue a great road paved by a great leader."

"The cabinet had to choose someone, and they have done so," Mr. Peres briefly told a news conference. Government spokesman Uri Dromi confirmed that it was Mr. Peres who had been chosen.

Mr. Peres then delivered a moving eulogy for his old friend and also long-time rival. "I'm sure that the real wish at the last minute of his life was that the peace process will continue," Mr. Peres said, speaking in front of a large photograph showing Mr. Rabin and King Hussein laughing and smoking together.

Mr. Peres dismissed questions about who was to blame for the growing atmosphere of violence in Israel, saying this was not the time. Government leaders in recent weeks had accused the right-wing opposition of fostering violence with extremist rhetoric.

"Let us mourn properly," Mr. Peres said early Sunday. "I hope that all of the people, regardless of party or belief, will come out against this terrible violence."

As caretaker prime minister, Mr. Peres can either call early elections or try to form a new government. But even in his current capacity as transitional premier, he can legally serve out the government's term until elections scheduled in October 1996.

Mr. Peres has long struggled to promote his vision of Middle East harmony to sceptical Israelis more inclined to entrust peacemaking to tough talkers and former generals.

Heads could roll in Israeli agencies

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli police and the domestic intelligence service Shin Bet were under fire on Sunday for their failure to protect Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin from an assassin's bullets.

"The whole affair will be clarified and conclusions will be drawn," Police Minister Moshe Shahal told Israeli radio. "Nobody thought such a thing could happen here. All the security plans for Israeli leaders must be reviewed."

Police sources said the head of the special Shin Bet unit in charge of security for Israeli leaders could be sacked, following Mr. Rabin's assassination on Saturday night.

"The security services have 'long feared an attack by a lone gunman on Mr. Rabin or Foreign Minister Shimon Peres,' a Shin Bet official said, asking not to be named.

An inquiry has been opened into the killing. "We will have to clear up several points, especially how the assassin was able to come to the rally with a gun, get to within metres of the plat-

form, pull out his 9-mm pistol, and fire three bullets," said Sari Avivi, a former chief of the special unit and personal friend of Mr. Rabin.

He noted that none of Mr. Rabin's bodyguards fired back at Yigal Amir, the 27-year-old Jewish gunman and law student at a Tel Aviv University. "Perhaps there were children near the assassin," said Mr. Avivi.

A police official acknowledged that police would have to take responsibility, "given that 700 police and border guards" were deployed for the peace rally.

"Panic has broken out. Heads will roll," he said, asking not to be named.

Mr. Rabin had refused to wear a bullet-proof vest and to leave the demonstration immediately after his speech. "I feel as if I'm at home," he told his bodyguards.

But his aides said Mr. Rabin had not been enthusiastic about the rally, which was organised to counterbalance a series of right-wing protests against the West Bank autonomy deal with the Palestinians signed in September.

Rabin was rightist target for murder

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, assassinated by an Israeli gunman, had been the target of protests and attacks by Jewish settlers and other right-wing Israelis opposed to the peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Security sources said last month that security around the 73-year-old prime minister had been beefed up following public outbursts in which Mr. Rabin was heckled and attacked.

At the time Mr. Rabin said he was not taking the problem personally. He saw it more as a problem for everyone.

"I am concerned about the overall outlook but not on a personal basis," he said last month.

Although Israelis are security-conscious to a rare degree in the face of threatened Arab attacks, the country prides itself on being a democracy, its politicians easily accessible.

But since Mr. Rabin signed a breakthrough peace deal with the PLO two years ago right-wing Israelis have

taunted him as a traitor for his peace moves with the Palestinians.

"Rabin is endangering the lives of Jews, creating a terrorist state and taking severe measures so he shouldn't be surprised if harsh measures are also taken against him," a right-wing activist told Israel Television last month.

He held up a hood ornament stripped from Mr. Rabin's car when hundreds of protesters surrounded the vehicle outside the parliament building.

"This proves that just like we got the ornament, we can also get Rabin," he said.

When last month Mr. Rabin sought parliament's approval for his latest accord with the once banned PLO, demonstrators held up pictures of the prime minister dressed in a Nazi uniform.

Other protesters accused Mr. Rabin of leading Jews to their death "like sheep to the slaughter."

A Jewish mystic opposed to Israel's giving up West Bank land for peace placed a curse on Mr. Rabin a month ago, appealing to the angels to kill him by this week.

Political killings as old politics itself around the world

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin was gunned down on Saturday night, the latest in a list of Middle East leaders slain in the past 25 years. Here is a list of prominent assassinations:

Sept. 28, 1971. Jordanian Prime Minister and Defence Minister Wasfi Al Tal slain by members of a Palestinian group, the Black September organisation.

March 25, 1975. Saudi Arabia's King Faisal killed by a nephew for reasons that remain obscure. It followed attempts by the Saudi monarch to modernise the conservative kingdom.

June 24, 1978. North Yemeni President Ahmad Ben Hussein Al Ghashmi blown up by a bomb hidden in a suitcase. Leftist South Yemeni rebels were blamed for the killing.

Oct. 6, 1981. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat gunned down by army officers from the outlawed Islamic Jihad group in Cairo while

watching a military parade to commemorate the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

Aug. 29, 1981. Iranian President Mohammad Ali Rajai and Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar die in a bomb blast in Tehran.

Sept. 14, 1982. Lebanon's President-elect Bashir Gemayel, 34, killed by a bomb that flattened the east Beirut headquarters of Lebanon's Falange party three weeks after his election.

June 1, 1987. Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami died when a bomb exploded aboard an army helicopter. He had been three years in office at the head of his ninth government.

Nov. 22, 1989. Lebanon's Syrian-backed President Rene Muawad killed by a car bomb which exploded as his motorcade passed along a west Beirut street on independence day.

June 29, 1992. Algerian head of state Mohammed Boudiaf shot dead in Algeria's eastern town of Annaba

while inaugurating a cultural centre. He had returned in January from 27 years of exile to head a collective presidency and implement an iron-fist policy against Muslim fundamentalists.

Nov. 4, Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin killed after addressing huge peace rally in Tel Aviv. Jewish suspect arrested and named as Yigal Amir, whom Israeli radio quoted as saying: "I acted alone on God's orders and I have no regrets."

Political assassinations are as old as politics itself. Hundreds of assassinations since World War II include:

April 6, 1994. President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda, and Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi are killed when their plane is downed by a missile.

March 23, 1994. Mexican ruling party presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio is shot and killed at rally.

May 1, 1993. Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa blown up by suicide

bomber.

March 21, 1991. Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi killed in bomb explosion during election campaign.

Aug. 15, 1988. Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq killed when his plane crashes, bomb believed to be cause.

Feb. 28, 1986. Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme shot and killed on a Stockholm street.

Oct. 21, 1984. Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi shot and killed by her bodyguards.

1983. Filipino opposition leader Benigno Aquino killed by gunman at Manila airport.

1976. Former Chilean Defence Minister Orlando Letelier by a car bomb in Washington.

1975. President Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh, shot and killed with most members of his family by young army officers.

1973. Spanish Prime Minister Luis Carrero Blanco in a bomb blast in Madrid claimed by the Basque movement ETA.

1969. Kenyan minister Tom Mboya by a Kikuyu Kenyan in Nairobi.

1968. Black U.S. civil rights leader Martin Luther King by a white assassin, James Earl Ray, in Memphis, Tennessee.

U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy, brother of John, by a Palestinian immigrant in Los Angeles.

1966. South African Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd by a parliamentary messenger in Cape Town.

1963. U.S. President John Kennedy by Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas, Texas.

1961. Former Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba by Katangese troops in Elisabethville.

1948. Indian national leader Mahatma Gandhi (no relation of Rajiv) by a Hindu extremist in New Delhi.

1951. King Abdullah of Jordan in Jerusalem.

1959. Solomon islander, prime minister of Ceylon, by Buddhist monk in Colombo.

1961. Former Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba by Katangese troops in Elisabethville.

Sudan militia called to arms to fight in south

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — The Khartoum coordinator of the national militia has called for a general mobilisation to fight rebels seeking independence in southern Sudan, the daily Al Sudan Al Hadith reported Sunday.

Mohammad Saleh Salim, coordinator of the Popular Defence Forces in Khartoum province, urged fighters "to enlist in the unit... which is heading to operations zone."

An estimated 500,000 Sudanese youths have received training in the militia, which has backed up the army in the 12-year civil war.

The call came amid reports of a flare up in fighting along the Sudan-Uganda border. Sudanese rebels, mainly Christians and animists, have been fighting since 1983 for autonomy from the Islamic north.

More than 1.3 million people have died in the conflict and war-related famines.

The government has accused neighbouring Uganda of participating in the recent rebel offensive. Uganda has denied the allegation.

Sudan's leader, Lieutenant-General Omar al-Bashir, took over the country in a 1989 coup and installed an Islamic regime. He set up the militia a year later.

Service in the militia is mandatory for most students and all government employees. It involves study of the Koran, as well as military training.

The federal commander of the militia, Brigadier Mohammad Hassan Al Fadil, told the paper that "we have declared a state of emergency among all the popular defence forces units for the defence of the nation and the faith."

The militia, he said, was "ready to face any threat or challenge against the country, side by side with the armed forces."

The Sudan embassy in Nairobi said that Tanzanian and Ugandan troops were supporting southern Sudanese rebels in attacking

government posts in southern Sudan.

In a press statement the embassy said: "About 7,000 (Ugandan) national resistance army soldiers, including some Tanzanian soldiers, initiated attacks on Parajok and Magaoi, in eastern Equatoria."

"They were guided by members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) outlaws."

The statement said the Ugandan and Tanzanian forces were supported by 30 Ugandan tanks, mortars and heavy artillery. It did not say when the attack began.

Uganda has denied that its troops are operating in Sudan, and officials last week said no Tanzanian forces were in Uganda. Ugandan newspapers last week reported that the army in the border area had been reinforced.

The government-owned New Vision newspaper said 36 members of an Ugandan rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), had been killed in a clash with the SPLA inside Sudan.

The Sudan embassy statement quoted Sudan Foreign Minister Ali Taha as describing the Ugandan operation in southern Sudan as "an open military invasion by all standards."

He said Sudan would take all necessary measures, including diplomatic and military measures, to protect its national unity and territorial integrity.

Aid workers and diplomats in Nairobi said last week that the SPLA had begun its largest anti-government attack for years and captured Parajok on Wednesday. They said SPLA forces had continued to head north.

Khartoum and Kampala frequently trade accusations of support for rebels seeking to topple their governments.

Uganda cut off diplomatic relations with Khartoum last April, accusing Sudan of supporting rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army.



GRIEF OVER SLAIN LEADER: Israeli girls cry next to the site of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv (AFP photo)

Ciller coasts to victory in confidence vote

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey's conservative Prime Minister Tansu Ciller easily won a confidence vote on Sunday for her renewed coalition with the social democrats, averting a defeat suffered exactly three weeks ago in the same chamber.

Speaker Ismet Sezgin said official results showed deputies voted 243 to 171, to confirm Ms. Ciller's right-left coalition, set to lead the country into early polls on Dec. 24.

"The 52nd government of our republic has won the vote of confidence. This is a success for our nation, our democracy and our parliament," Ms. Ciller told deputies right after the vote.

She then shook hands with the leader of the social democrats, Deniz Baykal, whose earlier refusal to bend to Ms. Ciller's will brought down her first coalition on Sept. 20.

The prime minister lost a similar vote on Oct. 15, after an attempt to form a minority

government without the troublesome social democrats, many of whom have opposed the free-market policies of her True Path Party (DYP).

The vote of confidence behind her, Ms. Ciller must now assume a caretaker role ahead of early elections.

But mounting political opposition and a constitutional challenge leave the prospects for a Dec. 24 vote, as called for in a new election law, uncertain at best. General polls must be held no later than Oct. 21, 1996.

Ninety deputies have signed a petition to the court, asking it to overturn the election law and its ambitious timetable.

Ms. Ciller, 49, a U.S.-trained economist, took office in June 1993 as the country's first woman leader.

But last September Mr. Baykal withdrew his party from her government over a dispute on austerity mea-

asures.

Ms. Ciller tried to hang on to power with a minority government, but failed to garner a vote of confidence from parliament last month.

Mr. Baykal offered to renew a partnership with Ms. Ciller just when Ms. Ciller was preparing to step aside.

Mr. Baykal's gesture came in an attempt to prevent the formation of a broad-based government including the Islamic Welfare Party.

Despite the agreement, Ms. Ciller bowed to pressure from opposition parties and agreed to the early elections. However, the court challenge by deputies could delay them.

After winning the vote of confidence, Ms. Ciller said in a brief address to legislature that the result was a victory for democracy.

The True Path Party and the republican Peoples Party revised the notorious Article 8, which limited freedom of

NEWS IN BRIEF

Court to rule against Brotherhood on Nov. 13

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's high military court said on Sunday it would give its verdict on 49 members of the Muslim Brotherhood on November 13 in the first of two trials of the fundamentalist group. The court at Hukuk military base north of Cairo set the date for the ruling after hearing arguments from the court-appointed defence lawyers. The defendants' own lawyers quit the court in protest at what it called a "political trial." The trial began in mid-September. The group of 49 Muslim Brothers, charged with setting up an illegal organisation and trying to impeach the constitution, face the maximum penalty, of life imprisonment at hard labour. The court also continued hearing arguments on Sunday in the trial of a second group of 33 Brotherhood members facing similar charges.

Pelletreau cuts short Gulf trip

MANAMA (AFP) — Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau flew Sunday to Israel for the funeral of assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, cutting short his trip to the Arab Gulf. "I am deeply saddened and shocked by the news of the murder of Prime Minister Rabin," Mr. Pelletreau said in a statement released by the U.S. embassy in Bahrain. The assassination on Saturday forced him to cut short his visit to Bahrain and cancel trips to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, he said. "This is another act of terror in an area which needs peace — a cause the prime minister did more to advance than any man I know," Mr. Pelletreau said. "I will now travel to Israel to join President (Bill Clinton) and other American leaders at the funeral," he said. "It needs to be said to Arab friends and others in this region that the search for peace will continue," he said. "We are committed to completing the work of Yitzhak Rabin in making a peace which will bring, to all states and peoples of the area, all the blessings of security, prosperity and honour."

Iran arrests thousands of drug smugglers

TEHRAN (AP) — Thousands of drug traffickers and addicts have been rounded up and tonnes of narcotics seized in a week-long nationwide sweep, Tehran radio reported Sunday. It said law enforcement agents arrested 3,000 drug traffickers and 4,000 addicts in a crackdown that began Oct. 22. The state-run radio said more than 10,000 kilograms of various drugs were also seized, along with dozens of guns and vehicles. Such large drug seizures or arrests are not uncommon in Iran, which admits to having a major drug problem, which it blames on Pakistan and Afghanistan. It says its two neighbours ship drugs through its territory to the Gulf and Europe. The Iranians have been contending with a burgeoning drug addiction problem, especially among young people. Officials say frequent crackdowns in which hundreds or thousands of traffickers and addicts are arrested have helped contain the problem. Convicted drug traffickers are given a mandatory death sentence under Iranian law. Addicts are sentenced to hard labour.

Kaddoumi congratulates Saddam on polls

BAGHDAD (R) — Farouk Kaddoumi, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) foreign affairs chief, has congratulated Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on his triumph in last month's presidential referendum. Baghdad newspapers reported on Sunday. The newspapers said Mr. Kaddoumi's greetings were relayed in a letter he sent to Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and in which he described President Saddam's overwhelming victory as an historic event and democratic practice. President Saddam won 99.96 per cent of the vote in the referendum in which he was the sole candidate. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had also congratulated President Saddam on his triumph.

Thousands of expelled Sudanese stuck on border with Libya

KHARTOUM (R) — About 10,000 Sudanese are at their country's border with Libya after Tripoli ordered thousands more out, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said on Sunday.

The agency quoted Police Brigadier Salaheddin Ahmad, a member of the committee in charge of receiving Sudanese expelled from Libya, as saying 1,356 had already crossed into several border towns during the past two days but the remaining deportees were still waiting to enter Sudan.

About 40,000 Sudanese have returned after Libya gave 300,000 of their compatriots until the end of the year to leave as part of a campaign to expel foreign workers and illegal migrants.

In August, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi decided to rid his country of illegal labour following unrest by Islamists in the coastal city of

Beirut is great, says Britain's lass in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — For Ann Malamah-Thomas, Britain's bustling new cultural envoy to Lebanon, Beirut is the most interesting assignment of a long and varied career.

The dynamic 48-year-old Scot from Kirkcaldy who has been assigned to reopen the British Council in Beirut after a nine-year shutdown, says it is the most stimulating job she has ever done.

"It's very exhilarating. The most interesting place I've ever worked in," says Ms. Malamah-Thomas whose job with Britain's international cultural and educational institute has taken her to Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

"Lebanon is an extremely vibrant society. It's full of life," she says.

The Nov. 7 reopening will be a milestone for the British Council, whose London-based staff left Beirut in 1986 after a spate of attacks on Britons and British institutions.

After a year preparing for the opening, Ms. Malamah-Thomas says that today, five years after the 1975-90 war ended, Beirut is as safe as it is stimulating.

"I feel infinitely more secure here than I would feel in London," she says of the city that was known in the 1980s as the kidnapping and mayhem capital of the world.

British Council staff pulled out after the bombing of Libya in 1986 by British-based U.S. planes sparked revenge attacks.

Two British teachers were found shot dead near Beirut two days after the bombing, and John McCarthy, head of the World Television News agency bureau, was kidnapped the same day.

A week later a bomb damaged offices of the British Bank of the Middle East and kidnappers who seized British journalist Alec Collett a year earlier announced they had killed him.

Hassana Jabr Salaam, the deputy director who helped keep skeleton services going under the auspices of a Muslim cultural

organisation after the British left, recalls that a local employee was killed by shelling and another was shot on his way home from work.

"A bomb blew out the windows of the library once because the British flag was flying outside. It was the dark days when the sectarian militias took over west Beirut," Ms. Salaam said.

Today the militias are gone and the city that shook to shells and car-bombs echoes to jackhammers and excavators as Lebanon rebuilds under billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri.

Although British diplomats still move around with armed bodyguards, Ms. Malamah-Thomas and dozens of British businessmen working on reconstruction projects have no special protection.

"I am able to walk home after midnight in west Beirut. A woman in the Arab World is more secure than in any other place. There's a respect for women here," Ms. Malamah-Thomas says.

"There are no muggings. No robberies in west Beirut," she adds.

What surprises her most is the warmth, courtesy and vitality of the Lebanese after the years of war.

There are frustrations to living in Beirut: Telephones often don't work, electricity is sporadic and traffic horrendous.

"But the Lebanese are still very courteous and considerate, which I wasn't expecting," Ms. Malamah-Thomas says.

As director of the British Council, she is organising an English-language school, cultural events, seminars for Lebanese English teachers and help for the government in vocational training techniques and administrative reform.

She is also helping to set up a national trust for Lebanon to protect nature spots and fine buildings and develop environmental education.

What makes Lebanon especially interesting, Ms. Malamah-Thomas says, is the variety of cultures that its Muslim, Christian and

Druze communities offer.

"It's like four countries in one," she says.

"Last Sunday I was in Baalbek and then in the evening I was in Jounieh and it was like France. And in the Ras Beirut sector of west Beirut it is a melting pot."

Baalbek is a stronghold of the Muslim fundamentalist Hizbollah (Party of God) which fights Israeli troops in South Lebanon and frowns on song, dance and alcohol.

Jounieh, heart of the Maronite Christian area north of Beirut, is a flashy, neon-lit centre of nightclubs, restaurants and cinemas.

Ras Beirut, where the British Council is located, has traditionally been a mixture of all religions in a tolerant environment, although like the British Council staff many Christians fled after militias took over during the war.

"The various areas are so different. I find each world just as interesting as the other," says Ms. Malamah-Thomas.

Qaboos issues amnesty

MUSCAT (Agencies) — All political prisoners in Oman — nearly all of them Muslim extremists imprisoned or sentenced to death last year for plotting to topple the government — will be freed under a general amnesty, an official announcement said Sunday.

State-run radio quoted a statement by the national security headquarters as saying Sultan Qaboos had issued the pardon in advance of the country's Nov. 18 national day.

The statement said Sultan Qaboos had issued the amnesty "to all prisoners involved in activities and organisations that are forbidden by law in the Sultanate of Oman."

The pardon also covers political activists outside the country "who have not been brought before the relevant courts" in Oman, the radio quoted the statement as saying.

Jordan Times
Tel: 684311

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 72111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
14:00 Shelley Owall's Bedtime Stories
14:30 News in French
14:45 Key Out
15:00 Nature World of Mitouki
16:00 I Love Lucy
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 Children's programme — Coosie Minnie
17:30 Scene — Maria Vandamme
18:00 News in French
19:15 Magazine — Simba
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 McHale's Navy
20:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:10 Star Trek
22:00 News in English
22:25 Inspector Morse
23:59 The American Court Chart

PRAYER TIMES
14:23 Fair
15:52 Sunrise/Duha
17:19 Dhuhr
18:21 Asr
18:37 Maghrib
18:18 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switich, Tel. 610741
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624501
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637430
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 622266
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 652626
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 625236
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811265

WEATHER
Bullion supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Sunny and warm weather conditions prevail with temperatures four degrees centigrade above average and winds southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 12/26
Aqaba 17/31

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue Police 637111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 621111
Fire Brigade 617011
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 824302
Traffic Police 896306
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 668010
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 667467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 775111
Radio Jordan 661101
Water Authority 661101
Jordan Electricity Authority 816015
Electric Power Company 636351
RJ Flight Information 18-5320
Queen Alia Int. Airport 18-5320

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 8238132

Khaldia Maternity J. Amn 6442816
Abdullah Maternity J. Amn 6424112
Jabal Amman Mat. Unit 642362
Malka J. Amman 636141
Palestine Shimsan 640171
Shimsan Hospital 661131
University Hospital 845645
Al-Nasr Hospital 667227
The Name, Abdulla 661137
Al-Ahli, Abdulla 661137
Italian, Al-Mahdawi 771013
Al-Rashid J. Ashraf 775112
Arms, Malka 661115
Queen Alia Hospital 66228551
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Health and Special Surgery 665199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 01990323
Zarqa National Hospital 01990341
Ibn Sina Hospital 01275555
Ghalya Hospital 01272755
Ibn Al-Kafkay Hospital 01272701
QJABA:
Prince Raja Hospital 01275555
Ghalya Hospital 01272755
Ibn Al-Kafkay Hospital 01272701
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Prince Raja Hospital 01275555

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department of the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 1853204. 5 where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Beirut (RJ)
08:35 Jeddah (RJ)
09:00 Amman (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:00 New Delhi (RJ)
09:30 Dubai Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:35 Beirut (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
15:40 Carablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:00 Milan (RJ)
19:45 Bangkok (RJ)
03:15 Jakarta (RJ)
05:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:00 Rome (IAZ)
06:00 Istanbul (TK)
06:00 Beirut, London (BA)
07:45 Beirut (ME)
08:40 Cairo (MS)
11:00 Khartoum (SD)
13:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:50 Vienna (OS)
16:30 Kiev (AU)
06:40 Milan (BA)
02:30 Amsterdam (KL)
03:00 Beirut, Athens (OA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)
06:30 Amman (RJ)
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02:30 Amsterdam (KL)
03:00 Beirut, Athens (OA)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:10 every Monday
Dep. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Amman 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Dep. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Lower prices in fifts per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 600
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 170/100
Carrot 240/200
Cauliflower 180/120
Cucumber (large) 180/100
Cucumber (small) 130/230
Eggplant 180/100
Garlic 200/100
Grape 200/500
Lemon 230/150
Marrow (large) 80/50
Marrow (small) 180/120
Onion (green) 500/400
Onion (green) 500/400
Orange (dry) 200/150
Orange 200/150
Peach (dry) 180/120
Peach (fresh) 180/120
Pineapple 350/250
Raddish 180/100
Spinach 200/120
String Beans 200/120
Tangerine 280/180
Tomato 140/80

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RAILWAY
TRAIN

8:00 p.m. every Monday
11 p.m. every Monday
10:30 a.m. every Sunday
10:00 p.m. every Sunday

NET PRICES

Price in J.O.D.	Price in J.O.D.
100	100
200	200
300	300
400	400
500	500
600	600
700	700
800	800
900	900
1000	1000

Home News

Queen ends working visit to S. Africa, Swaziland

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor returned early Sunday from her working visit in South Africa and Swaziland, a Royal Court statement said. The third session of the United World Colleges International Council meeting convened Saturday in Swaziland at the Waterford Kamhlaba UWC of Southern Africa. Their Majesties Queen Noor and King Mswati III of Swaziland accompanied the members of the International Board on a tour of the Waterford campus, which is the only UWC in the developing world and the only school in Swaziland that graduates the highest number of university-bound students. President Mandela described Waterford which was founded as a direct response to the segregated and unequal system in South Africa as "an island of non-racism in the sea of apartheid." Queen Noor said that its name, "Kamhlaba," which means "the world in miniature," reflects the spirit of the college, whose students will play "active roles in the struggle for justice throughout the world and the development of global prosperity." Waterford Kamhlaba is the only UWC that offers a full high school range from 11-19 years and currently enrolls 497 students from 46 countries including Jordan. Like all UWCs, its educational curriculum emphasises community service such as helping out at the vocational rehabilitation centre for the physically and mentally challenged and at the drop-in centre for street children. Later, King Mswati hosted a dinner in honour of Queen Noor's assumption of the UWC presidency. King Mswati conveyed his greetings to His Majesty King Hussein, saying he has played an "admirable role in promoting the spirit of reconciliation in a troubled region of the world" and whose statesmanship is "an inspiration to us all." King Mswati praised Queen Noor's "leadership and the UWC's international structure, which will expand its role." In her remarks, Queen Noor said that both Jordan and Swaziland are two small countries located in troubled regions, surrounded by powerful neighbours and yet have provided "safe havens for refugees." She expressed her hope that both countries will work together "to build bridges of understanding and cooperation for the shared goals of our people."



A man Sunday in Amman reads the news of the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv on Saturday night (photo by Yousef Al Allan).

'Ministry says it will continue food coupon distribution'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply announced Sunday that it would continue to distribute food coupons to the families with a total monthly income of less than JD 500, noting that the new coupons will be valid starting 1996. The ministry has distributed 220,000 coupons since it began issuing them two weeks ago in the various governorates. Thus far 1,338 million citizens have benefited from the measure, accounting for 30 per cent of the total number of coupons dispensed in 1995. Families must produce a certificate proving that their monthly income is less than JD 500 and a family registration book proving Jordanian nationality in order to be eligible for the coupons, according to the statement. Ministry of Supply centres have been crowded with citizens coming to claim their coupons, and many would-be recipients have complained of delays or that they were denied the coupons although, they said, their total family income was below JD 500. In its statement Sunday the ministry admitted that some measures had caused inconvenience to citizens, some of whom waited at the ministry centres for hours. It said it has now increased the number of centres and the staff in order to speed up the process but noted that it was issuing the coupons after careful scrutiny of the required documents. Commentaries in the local Arabic press tackled this question voicing the public's complaints. Some writers demanded that all Jordanians are entitled to get the coupons since it is most difficult for the Ministry to ascertain which families actually are entitled to the coupons. Others suggested that the Ministry of Supply give cash assistance to the needy families who deserve help and so save itself all the trouble of a coupon distribution campaign. The Ministry of Supply started issuing coupons in 1991 enabling limited income groups to buy subsidised sugar, rice, and powdered milk from regular commercial grocery stores. Non-Jordanians are not eligible for this state benefit.

Court maintenance forces postponement of trial in attack on French diplomat

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The trial of two Jordanians involved in an attack on a French diplomat in February was postponed by the State Security Court because of maintenance work in the court room. The trial was scheduled to start yesterday. Presiding Judge Hafez Amin set Nov. 15 as the new date to hear the case. Salem Abdullah Jaradat, and Ahmad Qassem, both 22, are charged with shooting and wounding a French diplomat last February while he and his wife were visiting Wadi Mujib area. The formal charges against them included plotting to carry out extremist attacks, possessing illegal arms and explosives and manufacturing hand-made explosives. Judge Amin also set a new date for the trial of six people known as the "Islamic Revivalists" accused of plotting subversion in Jordan to Nov. 19. According to the prosecution general's charge sheet, the group, who were actually apprehended before carrying out any attacks, started gathering members in 1990, was planning to carry out attacks against foreigners in Jordan. Meanwhile, the State Security Court is expected to set a date next week to start hearing the case of six people accused of attacking the office of the Central Intelligence Department (CID) at Baqaa refugee camp on Dec. 26, 1994. According to the state prosecutor general's charge sheet, the defendants are charged with the assault and the intent to block the appropriate authorities (CID) from exercising their duties to accordance with the Constitution and the distribution of pamphlets slandering His Majesty King Hussein. The defendants are Yousef Mahmoud Ghanim, 24, Shadi Jawdat Taha, 19, Yousef Ahmad Omar, 22, Ghassan Mosmar, 27, Ibrahim Mohammad Zein Al Abedin, 27, and Mohammad Safarini, 23. According to the charge sheet, the suspects started their illegal activities in April of 1994 and plotted to carry out extremist attacks against tourists and security departments in the Kingdom. However, one of the six suspects, Ibrahim Zein Al Abedin was apprehended by the CID on Dec. 23. The following day the State Security Court sentenced 11 Islamists to death, and seven more to imprisonment in the 'Arafat Afghan' case. The remaining five defendants decided to carry out the attack in retaliation for the apprehension and the verdict to "terrorise the CID intelligence." On Dec. 26, the five went to Baqaa and sprayed the CID building with bullets from a machine gun injuring one person then fled the scene. One day after the attack, the authorities apprehended Shadi Saleh who confessed and led the authorities to the other suspects.

Disaster relief experts point out particular vulnerability of women, children

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Women and children constitute 80 per cent of refugees worldwide, and they are vulnerable to sexual abuse, violence and intimidation, according to a report presented by Zubeida Hossain Ashagrie, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representative for Jordan. "Four out of five refugees are women and children. Circumstances or perhaps fate often inflict multiple punishments on refugee women, particularly those whose husbands or fathers are dead or missing," Mrs. Ashagrie told participants at the Second Amman Emergency Management Training Workshop. She said UNHCR ensures that the concerns of refugee women are heard. Violence against women, she stressed, is a particular concern, and UNHCR has recently issued guidelines to help refugee workers to provide the appropriate support and understanding. "The UNHCR developed a policy and guidelines to assist staff working with refugee women. Training courses are conducted regularly throughout the world to ensure that future planning takes into consideration the needs and resources of refugee women and includes their participation," she said. According to Mrs. Ashagrie, despite the efforts of more than 3,000 UNHCR workers in 193 offices in 144 countries, refugee problems remain a worldwide tragedy. "Refugees do not come only from the third world. In the heart of Europe, more than four million people have been driven from their homes in the continent's biggest refugee crisis since World War II," she said, referring to the ongoing conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Furthermore, she added that the current Middle East peace process is considered a bright and positive change in the region. "There is a steady march towards political stability in the area, and the impulse of peace is transmuting into a socio-economic blueprint that would hopefully remove all bones of conflict," Mrs. Ashagrie said. "Our world continues to be enmeshed in persecution and engulfed in political, ethnic, religious and social conflicts, and crises in countries such as Afghanistan, Somalia and Liberia, and many other hotbeds still require solutions," Mrs. Ashagrie told the gathering. "1995, I would venture to say, did not usher in an end to human sufferings. On the contrary, political unrest, difficult humanitarian crises and consistent patterns of persecution and human rights violations continue to compel innocent individuals to cross international borders seeking asylum," she added. Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad, who also addressed the gathering, said that in Jordan, "We have opened our doors, through the years, to hundreds of thousands of refugees, displaced people, evacuees and returnees. We have not had any major disasters in our country, but have always been amongst the first to send aid to those countries who have suffered earthquakes, floods and famine," Mr. Hamad said. Disaster relief, he asserted, can become a problem in itself if the recipient country is not well organised, but the Jordanian experience during the Gulf crisis was successful, he added. "I am proud to say that during the 1990-1991 crisis, Jordan managed to cope with over one million third-country nationals fleeing to our country plus 300,000 Jordanian returnees from Kuwait," the minister said. "This emergency took us all by surprise, but with a great deal of hard work and cooperation we managed to handle the situation with great success," he added. Mr. Hamad had several suggestions for minimising and limiting the effects of disaster based on Jordan's own experience. It is very important to minimise the bureaucracy in the decision making of the United Nations in order to deal with the urgency of the situation, the minister said. Moreover, he said, clear lines of communication must be in place not only between governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), but within the U.N. itself and that there should be efficient coordination between the various U.N. agencies that cover similar mandates so as to reduce the duplication of tasks. In addition, Mr. Hamad said, the UNHCR should establish in each member country a committee that would oversee the coordination of all pertinent parts of disaster control. The Interior Minister also suggested that UNHCR must have instant access, in each country, information on that country, including details of all governmental and non-governmental agencies, national and international, "so that efficient joint systems are easily set up." "We must always remember that it is not just material aid that is needed after a disaster, but a respect and awareness of human dignity and sensitivity of those who are suffering the consequence of a disaster," Mr. Hamad said. According to Mrs. Ashagrie, UNHCR protects and assists some 27.5 million persons concerned in more than 140 countries around the globe. Among them about 14.5 million are refugees. The rest, she added, include four million

Woman sentenced for murder of harasser

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Criminal Court Sunday sentenced a 25-year-old woman to seven and a half years in prison for the murder of a man who sexually harassed her. According to court papers, Hanan Adnan, who had pleaded not guilty, first received 15 years with hard labour, but she benefited from a penalty reduction of seven and a half years because the victim had sexually harassed her, presiding Judge Abdul Rahman Tawfiq told the court room. Court documents said that Ms. Adnan, a homemaker, shot and killed Mousa Hussein on Sept. 1, 1993 in the backyard of her house in Kafarangeh in Ajloun after Mr. Hussein repeatedly expressed amorous intentions towards her. During the one-month trial, the court listened to seven witnesses, including family members and friends who knew the defendant and the victim. All the witnesses' testimonies confirmed that Ms. Adnan had been complaining about the victim's advances and harassment and that she told them following the murder that she killed him "to save my reputation because he wanted to ruin my reputation and commit adultery with me." Meanwhile, the trial of a 29-year-old man, accused of killing and mutilating a man in Salt in August will resume at the Criminal Court after the trial was postponed twice because the victim did not have a lawyer to defend him. According to the prosecution general's charge sheet, Kayed Ahmad is accused of murdering Mahmoud Ensour in Salt on August 14 in a feud over money. The formal charges also include theft. During the heavily secured session last week, the court assigned attorney Zahra Sharabati to defend the accused. "The defendant will be informed of the charge sheet and will be asked if he was guilty or not," judicial sources told the Jordan Times Saturday.

Women's union to launch drive to amend Passports Law

By Ghaila Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) will this month launch a campaign calling for the amendment of the Passports Law to guarantee women's freedom to obtain passports without prior permission from their husbands. The union is demanding an amendment which would exempt women from the category of citizens who must have permission from their guardians before obtaining passports. The law currently puts women, minors and incapacitated people in this category. "This amendment will be based on the provisions of the Constitution which considers all Jordanian citizens equal," said the statement, adding that the amendment would also correspond with the National Charter and international treaties to which the Kingdom is a signatory. The statement added that the proposed amendment to the Passports Law would also be based on both an agreement signed and approved by Jordan to end all kinds of discrimination against women and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which Jordan is also committed. rights to travel based on the equality of obtaining a passport without a prior written permission from the husband or the male guardian. The union is demanding an amendment which would exempt women from the category of citizens who must have permission from their guardians before obtaining passports. The law currently puts women, minors and incapacitated people in this category. "This amendment will be based on the provisions of the Constitution which considers all Jordanian citizens equal," said the statement, adding that the amendment would also correspond with the National Charter and international treaties to which the Kingdom is a signatory. The statement added that the proposed amendment to the Passports Law would also be based on both an agreement signed and approved by Jordan to end all kinds of discrimination against women and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which Jordan is also committed. The statement said that the proposed amendment "does not contradict with Islamic shari'a which endorses equality and safeguards man's dignity without discriminating between men and women." Ms. Khader said that the campaign is supported by women's institutions and human rights institutions, who will join forces to demanding the introduction of the proposed amendment to the law. She added that she hopes the campaign will also be supported by Parliament and the Legislative Bureau. "We are optimistic that we will receive positive responses," said Ms. Khader. If not, she said, the union and its supporters will start staging sit-ins in front of the passport departments in Amman. Ms. Khader said that the push for amending the Passports Law is part of a general objective of introducing a civic family law that would put an end to all forms of discrimination against women and uphold their human rights.

Workshop reviews farmers' assistance scheme

AMMAN (Petra)—The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Ministry of Agriculture Sunday held a one-day workshop to discuss the aims of a seven-year project to diversify agricultural production and increase farmers' income in the Kingdom. Fawzi Dabbas, the project director, addressed the opening session saying that since the start of 1995 until September 508 farmers whose lands are involved in this scheme received soft loans totalling JD 972,000. The project which ends by the year 2001 entails giving farmers aid in the form of improved strains of sheep and cattle, improved seeds and animal feed as well as modern technology in farming and raising and fattening animals to boost livestock production and their income from the land said Mr. Dabbas, an engineer. Noting that IFAD was financing this project in Jordan, Mr. Dabbas said the project also entails financing small agricultural schemes including irrigation, increasing field crops and assisting women in rural regions to take part in agricultural work and food production. Furthermore the project also covers assistance to farmers to plant fruit trees, produce animal fodder, encourage farmers to start food processing industries such as dairies and fruit and vegetable canning factories, he added. He noted that the assistance to farmers comes through the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) and its various offices around the country which provide guidance and extension services in the field as well as three mobile veterinary clinics. A total of 33 participants from the Ministry of Agriculture, Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), the ACC the Agricultural Cooperative Organisation, the Queeo Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) and a group of farmers took part in the workshop which was formally opened by Mohammad Aqeel deputising for the governor of Amman. The workshop was organised "at the Professional Association Complex by the Arab Food for Social and Economic Development which is also partly financing the project in Jordan.

CONDOLENCES

In deep sorrow, the Embassy of the State of Israel in Amman has the sad duty of informing the public that

His Excellency Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

died on Saturday, November 4th, 1995. A book of condolence is opened daily at the Israeli Ambassador's residence located in Abdoun, Mahmoud Murshed Street, between 10:00 hrs. and 16:00 hrs. until Tuesday, November 7th, 1995.

India's Kashmir election plan gets flak and praise

NEW DELHI (R) — India's plan to hold elections in the troubled northern state of Jammu and Kashmir evoked a mixed reaction Sunday from political parties and the press.

Some called it risky while others welcomed the move. The cabinet, headed by Home (Interior) Minister Shankarrao Chavan, decided Saturday to recommend polls in the province next month in a bid to end separatist strife in the state. The Election Commission has to decide on it.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao is keen on holding elections in the only Muslim-majority state in mainly Hindu India ahead of general elections, due by June 1996.

Coinciding with the cabinet's decision, Mr. Rao, on a visit to the African state of Burkina Faso, promised more autonomy to Kashmir, banking on an accord New Delhi signed in 1975 with the National Conference Party headed by the late Sheikh Abdullah.

"We welcome the decision of the cabinet. The people of the state are disenchanted with militancy and have been wanting a popular government to be installed in the state," said Ved Prakash, spokesman for Mr. Rao's Congress Party.

The right-wing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) described Mr. Rao's election as a surrender to separatists. "A countrywide agitation will be launched if the disgraceful package is not withdrawn forthwith," it said in a statement.

Kashmir's all-party Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, a separatist organisation of some 30 religious and political groups, blasted the elections when it opened an office in Delhi and wooed Indian opposition parties for support.

elections in the state is wholly misconceived and is fraught with serious consequences," said Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

"It will clearly mean more bloodshed," said Yasin Malik of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).

Hurriyat wants the implementation of a 1948 U.N. resolution to hold a plebiscite in the region and says India wants a shotgun wedding.

"No forced marriages, no forced unions," Hurriyat activist Hamida Bano said.

Political analysts say Mr. Rao is hoping to repeat in Kashmir the success he achieved in Punjab where elections were held in 1992, ending a decade-long Sikh separatist movement in which about 10,000 people were killed.

National Conference leader and former chief minister of Kashmir Farooq Abdullah, whose father signed the 1975 accord, said he would place Mr. Rao's formula before his party's working committee.

The formula allows naming the head of the state government as Wazir-E-Azam, which means prime minister in Urdu, Kashmir's official language.

Elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly were last held in 1987. Three years later India imposed direct rule on the state.

Separatist groups, some wanting independence for Kashmir and others union with Pakistan, oppose elections in the state, where 20,000 people have been killed in the last five years.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over the disputed region, two-thirds ruled by New Delhi and the rest by Islamabad, which denies Indian charges that it has armed Kashmiri separatists.

13 dead, 200 reported missing in Argentine blast

BUENOS AIRES (R) — About 200 people were unaccounted for Saturday a day after a blast at an arms factory in central Argentina showered a town with shrapnel and bombs, killing at least 13 and injuring about 330.

"There are some 200 people that came to us and to the municipality looking for another 200 people," Police Commissioner Diego Guillen told the local DYN news agency.

About 200 people were working in the factory when the blast occurred Friday but it was unclear how many, if any, of those were among the missing.

Police Commissioner Carlos Ghigi said that by Saturday afternoon the official toll was 13 dead.

Officials do not rule out finding more victims when they finally manage to get into the arms factory near Rio Tercero, about 100 kilo-

metres south of the central city of Cordoba.

Intense heat and bombs still exploding inside the plant made it impossible for rescue workers to get into the factory.

"We still don't know if we will be able to enter (the plant) within the next 24 to 48 hours," regional army chief General Mario Groba told reporters.

Explosions intensified by late afternoon and many Rio Tercero residents who had returned to their homes were evacuated again to safer, more distant quarters of the town.

The government said the explosion was caused by a worker who accidentally triggered a mortar shell.

Residents said many of those missing could be among the 10,000 people who fled the town after the first blast or among the hundreds taken to nearby hospitals for treatment.

Explosives experts said there were still large amounts of live ammunition inside the plant.

"Explosions are still continuing and there is a danger that they spread to the underground depot, where the heavy artillery is," an explosives expert told Telam.

But Gen. Groba said the depot had been isolated and was in no danger of blowing up.

Many of the bombs — which some reports put at more than 10,000 — were still unexploded and officials estimated it could take several days to remove them all.

About 500 troops were combing the streets and searching homes Saturday for bombs which would then be taken to a safe area in the countryside and detonated.

In one house about 700 metres from the army factory, experts found 10 two-foot (60 cm) long mortar shells.

Many homes were destroyed by the succession of bomb blasts that followed the initial explosion. The government said it would help rebuild the town.

Residents spoke of the panic when the factory blew up. "I thought we were being bombed from planes," 45-year-old Victoria Martinini told the daily Clarin newspaper.

She was doing laundry in her patio when she heard a big bang. She rushed into the house and found her 5-year-old son screaming in bed. The ceiling had collapsed on him.

The blast ripped through the plant at 9 a.m. Local time (1200 GMT) Friday and was heard 50 kilometres away.

Clinton vows veto, denies welfare change

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton vowed Saturday to block Republican attempts to deregulate U.S. environmental protections as the White House denied Mr. Clinton was changing his position on welfare reform.

In his weekly radio address, Mr. Clinton took a broad swipe at attempts in the Republican-led Congress to curb federal regulations on clean air, clean water, toxic wastes, wildlife protection and other laws.

"Under the cover of balancing the budget, the Republican Congress is going after the essential environmental protections that have guaranteed the health and safety of all Americans for a long time now, and I am determined to stop them," he said.

Mr. Clinton repeated a promise in veto legislation funding the federal budget for fiscal year 1996 if Congress sends him a budget that guts environmental protection and "protects polluters, not the public."

Backlash against efforts to curb the EPA hit the House of Representatives Thursday when moderate Republicans joined Democrats to defeat Republican attempts to restrict federal environmental enforcement in 17 specific cases.

On another key legislative battleground, overhaul of the U.S. welfare system, the Washington Post said Mr. Clinton has told acquaintances he is taking "huge heat" from some Democrats to reverse course and veto a tough Republican welfare plan.

The post said Mr. Clinton is "rethinking" his final demands for acceptable legislation, weeks after voicing support for a Senate-passed version of a landmark welfare reform bill that would end a 60-year federal guarantee of aid to poor children and give states broad new power over antipoverty programmes.

But the White House denied Mr. Clinton was changing his mind. Deputy

Press Secretary Ginny Terzano said Mr. Clinton has always had reservations about the Senate bill and would not sign it unless those concerns were answered by the legislation.

A congressional conference committee is trying to find a compromise between the Senate bill and a tougher measure passed by the House.

"The administration has made quite clear that the president wants a welfare bill that is going to reward work and protect children," she said. "The Senate has made improvements on their bill. They're going into conference. We want more improvements made. His position hasn't changed on this."

Some Democrats, like New York Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, have pressured Mr. Clinton to reject the bill because of a study that said the Senate version would push more than one million children into poverty. Democratic Senators accused the

administration of hiding the study.

The White House agreed to a new study on the effects of the Senate bill on childhood poverty, and the office of management and budget is to release it Tuesday.

Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, wrote in an "open letter" to Mr. Clinton published by the Post Friday that "it would be a great moral and practical wrong for you to sign any welfare 'reform' bill that will push millions of already poor children and families deeper into poverty."

So far Mr. Clinton has resisted the pressure. Syndicated columnist Ben Wattenberg, reporting on an Oct. 26 telephone interview with Mr. Clinton, said the president told him that "he is not going to cave in and intends to stick with the Senate version" if it emerges from the conference.

Shuttle returns home after 16-day voyage

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — U.S. space shuttle Columbia and seven astronauts returned to Earth with a laboratory full of experiments Sunday after the second-longest flight in space shuttle history.

Commander Kenneth Bowersox guided Columbia to a 6:45 a.m. (1145 GMT) landing at the Kennedy Space Centre, just after sunrise.

Columbia was launched on Oct. 20 after a record-setting six scrubs because of mechanical and weather problems. The 16-day voyage ranks in length only behind Endeavour's 16-and-a-half-day astronomy

mission last March.

Columbia crossed the entire United States on its way home: Passing just north of San Francisco and over the Rocky Mountains, down into the Texas panhandle, Louisiana and the southern tips of Mississippi and Alabama, and on into Florida. Total trip length: 6.6 million miles (10.6 million kilometres).

"Welcome home," mission control told the crew. Commander Bowersox had one less navigational aid than usual at his disposal; air force radar was tied up with a delayed military rocket launch and could not support Sunday's landing.

The shuttle was equipped with a system that beamed

down an unprecedented six video channels, allowing researchers at various sites on earth to keep a close eye on their experiments.

The approach was billed as a preview of operations aboard the planned international space station.

Mission manager Paul Gilbert said scientists were "just elated with the quantity and quality of the data."

U.S. space officials were eager to get Columbia back on the ground. The next shuttle flight, set for launch next Saturday, is Atlantis' second docking mission with the Russian space station Mir.



ANTI-AMERICAN PROTEST: Iranian protesters burn a U.S. flag in the capital to officially celebrate the 16th anniversary of the seizure of the U.S. embassy. Several thousand demonstrators also burned Israeli flags to show their support for the ruling clergy in Iran (AFP photo)

Georgians vote in general elections

TBILISI (R) — Georgians began voting to elect a new president and parliament Sunday which they hope can bring stability to their turbulent country.

Polling stations opened at 0700 local time (0300 GMT) across the former Soviet republic of five million and closed at 2000 (1600 GMT). Voters will choose from among five candidates for president and elect 225 members to a new parliament.

Former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is a heavy favorite in the presidential race. He currently holds the posts of head of state and chairman of parliament, which will be abolished after the election.

Mr. Shevardnadze has

vowed to continue economic reforms and restore Georgia's territorial integrity, torn apart by separatist conflicts over four chaotic years of independence.

The elections are being boycotted in the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

It will be a heavy setback for Mr. Shevardnadze, 67 if he fails to get the majority of the votes required for success in the first round.

But Dzumber Potashvili, 55, poses a challenge of sorts since getting the support of the orthodox Communists, whose candidate withdrew at the last moment.

There are three other candidates but only Mr. Shevardnadze and Mr.

Potashvili, both former Communist Party bosses in Soviet times, have any realistic chance.

Mr. Potashvili took over in Georgia in 1985 when Mr. Shevardnadze moved to Moscow as foreign minister.

He resigned in 1989 during the uproar set off by a bloody Soviet army attack on a peaceful pro-independence demonstration in Tbilisi. The two men have traded accusations since over who was responsible for the use of force.

Latest opinion polls give Mr. Shevardnadze between 60 and 70 per cent backing while Mr. Potashvili's support has risen to some 30 per cent. Other candidates are far behind.

Poles vote on fate of Walesa

WARSAW (R) — Poland voted Sunday in the first round of polls that pit President Lech Walesa, the former shipyard worker who defied Communist power, against resurgent ex-Communists who already control government and parliament.

Polling began in darkness and temperatures close to zero at voting stations throughout the country.

Surveys showed Mr. Walesa, who sent tremors through the Soviet Bloc when he founded the Solidarity Trade Union in 1980, has been rallying the votes of those opposed to the front-runner, former Communist Minister Aleksander Kwasniewski.

Mr. Walesa, playing on memories of a Communist past that many, though not all, view with disdain, insists he is the only man standing in the way of a "red triangle" — leftist control of parliament, government and the presidency.

Barring major upsets, these two are set to face each other in two weeks to a hard-fought run-off for a five-year term.

The other 11 candidates were trailing far behind in opinion polls, with centrist Jacek Kuron holding third place.

After Communist rule was

overwhelmingly rejected in 1989, the idea of Solidarity's Nobel Peace prize-winning leader being supplanted by a minister of the old system was unthinkable.

But other East European states, weary of economic reform, have already restored the heirs of former rulers.

Mr. Walesa, 52, his trademark moustache now grey, sees himself as the best person to lead Poland into NATO and the EU.

Conscious of his feud with the winners of the 1993 parliamentary polls — a coalition of Mr. Kwasniewski's Democratic Left Alliance and a Peasant Party — Mr. Walesa has cultivated a statesmanlike air in the campaign, declaring: "I am the one Pole who has no choice but to stand."

The good-looking, articulate economist Kwasniewski, 40, owes his ratings in part to a carefully-groomed image of modernity, ability and moderation.

He says Poles must abandon old divisions into Communists and their foes, presenting himself as a social democrat committed to sensible market reform and ties with the West.

Mr. Kwasniewski promised voters that if they chose him, they would

wake next day "in a country where the authorities will defend and develop the gains of the changes made since 1989".

Mr. Walesa claims credit for those gains, but the fiery rhetoric of Mr. Walesa's early Solidarity days in the Gdansk Shipyards has turned opaque.

His battles with some post-1989 governments, aides and allies, have allowed critics to paint him as a chaotic force.

But Mr. Walesa argues his record speaks for itself. He steered the 1989 restoration of Polish democracy, secured a peaceful withdrawal of Russian troops, has fought to keep reforms on track against governments which faltered.

The policies of the two top candidates for the presidency, differ more in emphasis than fundamentals.

Mr. Walesa takes a tougher line over Moscow's objections to Polish membership of NATO than the more conciliatory left.

He hopes for stronger presidential powers in Poland's new constitution, while Mr. Kwasniewski does not, and he calls for wider, faster privatisation than the government plans.

ANC wins landslide victory in polls

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's first democratic local polls have broadened the support base for President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress despite its difficulties in delivering on promises to the people since it took power 18 months ago.

Politicians and analysts said that with less than 15 per cent of the total votes still to be tallied from last week's municipal elections, the ANC had romped home with 70 per cent.

It was expected to increase the lead with results from rural areas, where it enjoys strong support, still coming in.

The ANC took nearly 63 per cent of the vote in South Africa's first all-race elections in April 1994 which ended white minority rule.

It said it considered the results of the local polls a vindication of its 18 months in power, despite serious difficulties in delivering on its promises of a better life for blacks after more than four decades of apartheid rule.

Political science lecturer Phil Mtimku said the white far-right Conservative

Party, black radical Pan Africanist Congress and Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi had fared badly in the polls.

Inkatha — locked in an often violent political confrontation with the ANC both before and since the end of apartheid — obtained 0.5 per cent compared to the 10.5 per cent in last year's national polls.

But voting has been delayed until next year in Inkatha's powerbase, volatile KwaZulu-Natal province, because of disputes over electoral boundaries.

Police said gunmen killed five people in an early morning attack on a home-stead in KwaZulu-Natal.

"The group opened fire on both houses and killed five people. We are not certain how many people were wounded. A political motive cannot be ruled out," the spokesman said.

Mr. Buthelezi told supporters Sunday his party would trounce its opposition in next year's poll.

Australian gets top award at underwater film festival

ANTIBES, France (AFP) — Australian filmmaker David Hannan clinched the top Golden Palm Award for his film Coral Sea Dreaming at an international festival for underwater film and photography which closed here Sunday. A British BBC film, Hunters Of The Sea Wind by Roger Jones and Rick Rosenthal, took the second prize at the festival, held in the exclusive Riviera resort of Antibes.

Photographer: 'Baldwin punched, kicked me'

LOS ANGELES (R) — The photographer who claimed actor Alec Baldwin attacked him, filed suit Friday alleging the movie star not only punched him but kicked him in the head when he was on the ground. Alan Zanger, a freelance photographer, sued Baldwin for assault and battery and demanded unspecified compensatory and punitive damages. Baldwin was arrested Oct. 26 for allegedly punching Mr. Zanger, who was trying to take pictures of the star and his actress wife Kim Basinger as they arrived home with their newborn daughter, Ireland Eliese.

The Los Angeles City attorney's office is still reviewing a police report about the alleged attack to decide whether to charge Baldwin with battery — an offence which carries a maximum sentence of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. But Mr. Zanger filed suit Friday in Los Angeles Superior Court saying Baldwin struck him "about the face and body with his fists," knocking him to the ground and "continued to strike blows to the head and person ... with his hands and feet."

Mr. Zanger, who immediately after the incident said his nose was broken, stated in the suit that he has suffered permanent disability and is no longer able to do his job. Baldwin's actions were "willful and malicious," Mr. Zanger's suit says. On the Tonight Show With Jay Leno Wednesday, Baldwin disputed Mr. Zanger's version of the incident in which he said he sprayed shaving cream on the windows of the photographer's van to prevent him shooting pictures of Baldwin, Basinger and their first baby.

Officials believe the attack could easily reach the courts. The police report is being reviewed by the city attorney's office. The police report is being reviewed by the city attorney's office.

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Relief counts

HOODS IN TUR... more than 30 people (AFP photo)

LUENA, Philippines — Relief efforts... to their... to the Philip... to cope with... a huge typhoon... killed at least... people, officials said.

"We are still... there are... bodies," a... official in Luena... of Quezon province... reported.

Officials believe the... could easily reach... the police report... the city attorney's... office.

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alian gets
award at
water film
festival

France (AFP) — An Italian filmmaker has clinched the Palm Award for Coral Sea at an international festival for underwater photography held here Sunday.

ographer:
in punched,
ked me'

GELES (R) — A photographer who was attacked by a star not only lost his head when he was punched, but also his camera.

On Oct. 26, the photographer was punched in the head by a star who was trying to get away from him. The star was the wife of a famous actor.

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FLOODS IN TURKEY: The city centre of Aksu on the Turkish Aegean coast is covered with floodwater after more than 30 people were killed overnight by flash floods triggered by a sudden storm on Turkey's Aegean coast. (AFP photo)

Relief efforts stretched as Manila counts the cost after huge typhoon

LUCENA, Philippines (R) — Relief efforts were stretched to their limits Sunday as the Philippines struggled to cope with the aftermath of a huge typhoon which killed at least 330 people, officials said.

"We are still receiving reports that there are still more bodies," a disaster agency official in Lucena, capital of Quezon province, told reporters.

Officials believe the death toll could easily reach 500 as the grim task of cataloguing the destruction wrought by super-typhoon Angela continues.

The military, police and civilian aid services were struggling to cope with delivering food and other emergency supplies, but were hampered by blocked roads, washed out bridges and the wide area afflicted by Angela's passage Friday.

The Lucena official said so far no helicopters were available in her area.

"Officials from the affected areas are making their own way to our headquarters to pick up supplies," she said.

More than 140 people were killed in Quezon alone, including at least 121

in a single town. The province, southeast of Manila, was one of around 10 worst-hit by Angela.

The storm, described by weathermen as a "super-typhoon" because of its strength and size, began to pound the most populous Philippine island of Luzon late Thursday and its impact lasted most of Friday.

It scythed across southern Luzon, causing widespread floods and landslides, knocking out power throughout nearly the whole island, and destroying thousands of homes.

Some half a million people were forced to flee their homes, officials said.

Most of the deaths were from drownings or landslides triggered by tidal surges and torrential rain, but many people were killed by objects propelled by Angela's winds which at their peak were gusting over 250 kilometres.

"The Philippines, an island nation that forms a natural target for typhoons roaring out of the Pacific Ocean, is battered by about 20 storms a year," Manila newspapers Sunday said that, given

Angela's tremendous power, the country had escaped relatively lightly.

"Superhowler (Angela) brought maximum winds of destruction," the Philippine Daily Inquirer said in an editorial.

"But it also brought howling success in that it brought the least of all possible losses of lives and property in the usually cruel and uneven contest between man's folly and nature's rampage," it added.

The Inquirer and other papers credited timely and persistent government efforts with preparing the country for Angela, which struck less than a week after another typhoon killed more than 160 people in the central Philippines.

President Fidel Ramos Sunday toured some of the worst-hit areas of the country, pledging rapid emergency relief efforts and directing officials to repair vital road links, the Philippine News Agency said.

More than 1,000 people were killed in a single typhoon in the Philippines in 1987 and around 5,000 in massive floods brought by another storm in 1991.

S. Korean tycoon breaks silence over Roh slush fund

SEOUL (R) — One of South Korea's richest tycoons broke the silence surrounding Roh Tae-woo's secret fortune by confessing Sunday he helped the former president hide at least \$65 million, prosecutors said.

After stonewalling prosecutors who summoned him Saturday for questioning, Chung Tae-soo, chairman of the Hanbo Group, finally admitted his links to the \$654 million slush fund Mr. Roh amassed while in office, an official in the prosecutors office said.

Mr. Chung's confession is a breakthrough in the investigation that is focussing on which businessmen gave Mr. Roh the money and what the tycoons were given in return.

He was the first tycoon to be summoned. Hanbo was the shining corporate success story of Mr. Roh Tae-woo's 1988-93 term, going from a obscure construction firm to a top-20 firm involved in huge state infrastructure projects.

Yonhap said heads of 10 other business conglomerates, known as "chaebol", would be summoned next week, including the chairman of the Daewoo Group, the Dong Bang Group and the Sunkyong Group.

After two nights of violent street protests, Seoul and other cities were relatively peaceful Sunday.

On Saturday thousands of demonstrators clashed with riot police in the capital, expressing their anger over the massive political corruption, demanding Mr. Roh's arrest and accusing President Kim Young-Sam of a cover-up.

More than 10,000 protesters in a Seoul park chanted: "Death to every-one involved in corruption" and "death to the Kim Young-Sam government".

Students, workers, housewives and other citizens poured into the streets of Seoul and 17 other leading cities, arming themselves with iron bars and bricks to confront squads of riot police firing tear gas.

Daewoo, a top-five conglomerate with billions of dollars of overseas investments, is suspected of helping Mr. Roh launder more than 10 billion won (\$13 million), prosecutors have previously said.

Dong Bang and Sunkyong are linked to Roh by marriage to his children.

Prosecutors have said Roh's relatives could be the key to unlocking the secrets of where the ex-president's money is now stashed. They have asked the Foreign Ministry for help in searching through Swiss bank accounts.

Rebel mines, snipers await advancing Sri Lankan army

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops, massing at the gates of the Tamil rebel stronghold of Jaffna, prepared Sunday for their final advance on the town and assessed the level of resistance they would face.

After 48 hours of relative calm, soldiers were refreshed and their morale was reported high. But when the final advance on the northern city begins it will be painstaking and difficult, with Tamil Tiger sniper fire and booby-traps slowing progress, military experts say.

"When we are ready we will move," a senior army officer told Reuters Sunday. "There will be no assault as such. The forward march and onward move will begin when we are ready."

Saturday, troops were just 4-1/2 kilometres from the centre of Jaffna, building bunkers on their western and eastern flanks, the military said.

In the east of the country, a bomb strapped to a motorcycle exploded in the town of Ampara, killing two civilians and wounding 37, the military said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have stepped up attacks on civilian targets in the east in what is seen as an attempt to divert the military's attention from the north.

So far, the army's Operation Riviresa (Sunshine) has been aiming towards Jaffna town, the spiritual and strategic capital for the Tigers, who are fighting for a Tamil homeland in the north and east of the country.

But analysts say the fiercest battles may lay ahead. If the soldiers move into the city they could face street fighting in which pockets of the advancing force could be easily isolated.

Diplomatic and aid sources said the Tigers appeared to be digging in for a likely last-ditch defence.

One source said it was still unclear how far the rebels would go. "They could even blow up the entire town rather than let it fall into government hands," he said.

Inside Jaffna, the troops could expect a variety of devices aimed at maiming or killing, such as flashlights, cooking utensils or tins of food booby-trapped with explosives, a Western military analyst said.

"To occupy Jaffna would be an expensive business," he said. It would need bomb-disposal and mine-clearance teams with robots to defuse bombs and sniffer dogs to detect explosives.

There would also have to be large number of troops with plentiful ammunition, especially for small-arms.

"The troops will be confronted with 'attractive' booby-traps, mines and a few snipers and anti-tank teams," the analyst said.

A Western diplomat said a final push could be delayed by as much as a week since the eyes of the world were on Jaffna and the government needed to keep civilian casualties to a minimum.

"Many people want to let as many people get out as possible first," he said.

On Friday, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali expressed concern about the plight of civilians fleeing the city and said that "humanitarian assistance on a significant scale will be essential to minimise suffering".

Aid sources said many of the town's residents had joined an exodus of nearly 500,000 Tamils fleeing the

war. "Sanitation is a major concern, especially with the settling in of the rains," one source said. "It could cause an outbreak of dysentery or even cholera."

The military estimates 1,000 rebels have been killed in two weeks of fighting on the Jaffna peninsula and puts its own losses at 221 killed and 536 wounded.

More than 50,000 people have died in the 12-year-old war.

Jaffna in ruins

Meanwhile twelve years of bitter conflict have reduced the once booming town of Jaffna from its status as Sri Lanka's second most important trading post to a heap of rubble.

Growing up among the debris of war is a generation of youths, both men and women, who know only the gun, older residents of the embattled town say.

"There is a generation in Jaffna who have known nothing but war," said moderate Tamil politician Murugesu Sivasthambaram, 73, head of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), whose members were forced out of Jaffna by the LTTE after the war started in 1983.

"My heart aches to see young lives being destroyed like this," said Mr. Sivasthambaram, who now lives in Colombo.

Where older Jaffnaites once queued for tickets to see their screen idols at the landmark Regal Cinema and young men watched soccer matches at Duraipappa Stadium on lazy weekends, there are only cold walls standing, pockmarked with shrapnel.

The Regal lost its roof some years ago and mortars have left gaping holes in its

walls, the stadium is in a shambles and Duraipappa after whom it was named killed by an LTTE assassin.

"It was a very conservative society. Boys played soccer, girls stayed home and adults went to the cinema," Chelvadurai Nagendra, a student in Jaffna in the 1960s, recalled.

Even the electricity which powered the cinema was cut off over 10 years ago, leaving its residents to struggle along in the night with kerosene-fuelled lanterns.

Business thrived before 1983, when the LTTE began fighting for a homeland in the island's north and east for the minority Tamils.

"It was a vibrant town and a very peaceful one," said Colombo-based journalist T. Sabaratnam, who was born and raised in Jaffna.

"Next to Colombo, it had the best sales in the country."

He remembered the days when all of Sri Lanka's requirements of onions and chillies passed through Jaffna's industrious traders and its markets thrived with bananas, grapes and the highly prized mangoes, one of Sri Lanka's best loved fruits.

Its factories, from the salt mines at Elephant Pass, to a cement factory at Kankasanthurai and a chemicals factory at Paranthan, have all fallen silent.

"Many buildings I knew are no longer there and not a single new building has come up in many years," Mr. Sivasthambaram said.

Even its cultural landmarks, such as the grand old Dutch Fort, now bear the scars of both government and LTTE forces.

The fort has been bombed by both sides.

Growing global homelessness threatens nations — U.N. agency

WASHINGTON (R) — A half billion people in cities and towns worldwide are homeless or live in inferior housing, a burgeoning problem that threatens the economic and social fabric of many nations, a U.N. agency said Sunday.

"Homelessness is on the increase everywhere, in the developed world as well as in the underdeveloped world," said Wally N'Dow, head of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). "No one can afford the exploding urban blight, socially, economically and politically."

Housing shortages and poor housing conditions — the results of massive urbanisation — are life-threatening, the centre, which provides technical support to governments, said.

Sub-standard housing, unsafe water and poor sanitation in densely populated cities are responsible for ten million deaths worldwide every year, it added in a

special report.

The problem is getting worse because housing cannot keep up with an exploding urban population, which will double from 2.4 billion in 1995 from five billion in the year 2025.

"We will witness at least a doubling of the homeless and shelterless people (unless we act)," Mr. N'Dow told Reuters. "That's a catastrophe. It's a clear and present danger."

The centre said the cities with the worst housing problems include Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with 79 per cent of the people homeless or living in inferior housing; Jakarta, Indonesia, with 54 per cent, and Bogota, Colombia, with 50 per cent.

To cope with the urban population explosion, the U.N. agency called for a new partnership between governments and businesses, better use of scarce resources and the elimination of excessive building regulations.

"One of the most impor-

tant factors is how we release the land, how we provide access to the land, who controls the land," Mr. N'Dow added.

According to the centre, by the year 2015 the ten largest cities in the world will be in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Only one of them — Tokyo, with 28.7 million inhabitants — will be in an industrial country.

The others — Bombay, India, with 27.4 million residents; Lagos, Nigeria, 24.4 million; Shanghai, China, 23.4 million; Jakarta, Indonesia, 21.2 million; Sao Paulo, Brazil, 20.8 million; Karachi, Pakistan, 20.6 million; Beijing, China, 19.4 million; Dhaka, Bangladesh, 19 million, and Mexico City, 18.8 million — will all be in the developing world.

New York and Los Angeles in the United States and Seoul, South Korea, will fall from the top ten in the next 20 years.

Crew saves ship in Baltic storms

STOCKHOLM (R) — Prompt action by crew members averted disaster late Friday when a ferry carrying 81 passengers from Sweden to Germany developed a 15-degree list in heavy storms in the southern Baltic Sea.

The roll-on, roll-off ferry Sassnitz began to heel after gales and heaving waves toppled several railway carriages on the vehicle deck and cars began to roll and slide to one side of the ship, the Swedish News Agency (TT) reported.

However, quick-thinking crew members prevented a

new Baltic ferry disaster by pumping water into ballast tanks on the opposite side of the ship to correct the list.

More than 800 people were killed in the Baltic in September 1994 when the ferry Estonia listed and sank after pounding seas tore off its bow doors and flooded the car deck.

No-one was injured in the latest incident, which took place as the German coast near the end of its crossing from Trelleborg to the port of Sassnitz on the island of Ruegen.

One railway carriage

smashed against the inside of the hull, causing a large dent.

"When we heard the crash I think all of us thought something terrible was about to happen. But everyone was still calm, there were no signs of panic," passenger Hanne Yuesel told TT.

"Everything that wasn't tied down in the room — chairs, bottles and glasses — just flew around. I was thrown against a wall, it was just luck that I wasn't hurt," she said.

New NATO head to be named within days

BRUSSELS (R) — Ruud Lubbers could be anointed secretary-general of NATO, perhaps as early as Wednesday, with a confident Dutch government firmly behind him barely two weeks after Willy Claes quit over a bribery scandal.

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, former Danish foreign minister and the only other serious contender, maintained his candidacy at the weekend after meeting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

But alliance insiders said Mr. Lubbers, humiliatedly defeated last year in his bid to become head of the European Commission, would only have allowed his name to go forward officially if he had been given the green light after his own interview Thursday with Mr. Christopher.

The Dutch declaration came within hours of Mr. Lubbers, a former Dutch prime minister for 12 years until 1994, returning from what diplomats described as a "positive yetting" interview in Washington with

Mr. Christopher. "After (Lubbers's) visit to the United States, we have formalised what has been something of a reality — which is that he is now a candidate," Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Mierlo told reporters Friday.

Alliance diplomats echoed Mr. Van Mierlo's confident tone. "In the real world you can never be 100 per cent sure of anything," one NATO diplomat said. "But following the visit to Washington the Dutch are clearly 99.9 per cent sure that Lubbers will get the job."

Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Portugal all declared publicly their support for Lubbers last week, meaning he now has the open backing of six of the alliance's 16 nations.

Mr. Ellemann-Jensen, keenly interested in the post, so far only has the declared support of Denmark, Iceland and Norway.

Belgium, humiliated by Mr. Claes's forced resignation after only one year in

the face of a bribery scandal concerning his party when he was a government minister in the 1980s, will go along with the majority decision.

Greece, Luxembourg, Spain and Turkey have so far kept quiet on the succession, but diplomats said they too would probably be happy to go with the prevailing wind.

If, as expected, the United States does decide to support Lubbers, it is likely to wait until an informal gathering of NATO ambassadors slated for Tuesday afternoon to do so.

Diplomats said that if soundings at this event showed overwhelming support for Mr. Lubbers, Denmark, Iceland and Norway would quietly switch camps.

A formal meeting of the North Atlantic Council next Wednesday would then offer the Jesuit-trained master of compromise the job, the diplomats said.

If that happens it will be in something approaching record time for the alliance

having taken less than three weeks since Mr. Claes's resignation on Oct. 20.

Even the choice of Mr. Claes took a few weeks longer after his predecessor Manfred Woerner died of cancer in August 1994.

"The speed is due to a combination of factors. Mr. Lubbers is a strong candidate, there is the pressure of events in Bosnia and the need to negotiate carefully with the Russians about eastward expansion," one alliance diplomat said.

With tough peace talks on Bosnia under way in the United States, the alliance is racing against the clock to pull together a 60,000-strong force to implement any resulting deal.

At the same time it is having to conduct delicate negotiations with a prickly Russia both about Moscow's contributions to the peace force and about NATO's ambitions to bring in new members from the former Communist East.

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Features

Arab states read Israeli runes, weigh up Peres

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

CAIRO — Israel's Arab neighbours tried to read the runes of Israeli domestic politics on Sunday for any signs the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin would set back, disrupt or even accelerate the Middle East peace process.

The appointment of Shimon Peres as acting prime minister reassured Arab states committed to peace agreements but diplomats said some will doubt Mr. Peres's ability to fill Mr. Rabin's shoes as a leader able to inspire confidence among Israelis.

There was less at stake for Arab states further afield and those opposed to the latest agreements gloated over the novelty of a Jewish extremist killing a Jewish leader.

Among Arabs who have dealt with Israeli leaders, Mr. Peres was much better liked than Mr. Rabin, a man widely seen as cold, abrasive and arrogantly insensitive to Arab public opinion.

Mr. Peres met more frequently than Mr. Rabin with Arab leaders such as Yasser Arafat of the PLO and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and he was more comfortable in their company.

"We have full confidence in Peres's commitment to the peace process... he will find we will give him every help towards the aim we are all working for," said Foreign Minister Amr Musa of Egypt, the first Arab state to make peace with Israel.

Mr. Peres promised the same. "There is nothing else that we can do... but to continue a great road paved by a great leader," he told reporters after an emergency cabinet meeting.

A foreign ministry official in Qatar welcomed the choice of Mr. Peres. "It (peace) is an irreversible process. In fact, with Shimon Peres in command, it will accelerate," he said.

King Hussein said he believed Mr. Peres would follow in Mr. Rabin's footsteps. "I wish him all the

very best, he will have all my support as he pursues goal of peace," he added.

One senior Egyptian official, who asked not to be named, said he did not foresee any sudden change in Israeli policy or even any delay in redeploying Israeli troops in the West Bank — the current phase of the Palestinian self-rule plan.

"I don't see an immediate negative reaction. I think the Israeli people will come together and it could even reinforce the peace faction," he said.

"But I'm really concerned about three or four months down the line. Then we'll see if Peres has enough authority with the military to take the hard decisions," he added.

"The peace process isn't going to fall apart," said a diplomat based in Cairo. "But it's a fragile process and Rabin was an important cog that's now been removed."

"Rabin filled a special role that Peres can't fill. He reflected the desire of the

Israelis for peace and security. Whether Peres can do the same is open to doubt," he added.

Across the Arab World, commentators noted that it was unprecedented for Israelis to kill their leaders and speculated on the effects this might have on the Israeli policy.

"No doubt Israel will suffer a great political crisis," said Magdi Hussein, editor of the pro-Islamist newspaper Al Shuah. "This will make the Israeli negotiators rougher, whether the Labour Party stays in power or not, and it will create more obstacles for a settlement."

"Some say everything will evolve in favour of peace but I think the opposite is the case," said another diplomat.

"It will reopen the debate (about peace). The fact that it was a Jew who killed Rabin strikes at the core of the way Israelis see themselves," he added.

At least in Egypt, where Muslim militants are fight-

ing to overthrow the government, officials seized on the assassination as another chance to promote its campaign against all acts of violence by opposition groups.

One group of militants attacked Mr. Mubarak's motorcade in June but failed to kill him. Egypt has accused Sudan of organising the attack but Sudan denies this.

"This incident raises once again the subject of political assassination as a means to damage political life in the region," said Foreign Minister Musa, speaking on Egyptian television from Buenos Aires.

"We must contain these negative effects and show that the forces of peace are stronger and firmer than any negative forces," he added.

"Terrorism does not recognise any borders. It has become universal and condemnation of it should also be universal," said Nahil Osman, head of Egypt's State Information Service.



Yitzhak Rabin

Israel shaken to core after Jew murders Rabin

By Luc De Barochez
Agence France Presse

TEL AVIV — Israelis were in shock on Sunday, gripped by grief and disbelief that a fellow Jew could have killed their Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"Israelis have woken up in a different country," said the daily Yediot Aharonot. "The state of Israel will never be the same," agreed Environment Minister Yehor Shalev.

The murder by Jewish extremist Yigal Amir has sent shock waves through Israel and was unprecedented even in a country already scarred by war and terrorist violence since its creation in 1948.

It was the first time in Israel's 47-year history that a political leader has been assassinated.

"A taboo has been broken," said a commentator on army radio, after Amir pumped three bullets into Mr. Rabin after he delivered a message of peace to a crowd of 100,000 cheering Israelis on Saturday night.

"The rules of political debate have been wiped clean. Our democracy of which we have been so proud will never be the same," he said in a voice choked with emotion.

"Rabin was the most

Israeli of us all and it is one of us who has killed him," he lamented, as the radio played Hebrew mourning songs in the background.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein broke down in tears on state television and was unable to talk.

Thousands of Israelis refused to go to work, gathering instead at the site of the assassination at the Kings of Israel Square.

Others flocked to the parliament building in occupied Jerusalem, where the body of Mr. Rabin was to lie in state later in the day to allow the people to pay their last respects.

Some telephoned radio stations to talk about their sorrow, while candles burned on pavements in Mr. Rabin's memory.

People were walking in the streets hearing portraits of Mr. Rabin and solemnly holding black flags.

"It is not Rabin who has been killed, it is the whole state," wrote the ruling Labour Party's daily Davar Rishon, pointing the finger at right-wing leaders for whipping up anti-government sentiment in past months.

"They will condemn it, they will protest, but they hear a heavy responsibility for this odious act," the paper said.

Right-wing opposition

Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the killing with tears in his eyes. But those in the peace camp have already called on the right to "draw its conclusions from its soul and conscience."

"Through his death, Rabin will succeed where he failed when alive, in creating a feeling of national unity," said writer Meir Shalev.

But Sarid said: "We will never forget that Rabin was branded a traitor, an assassin and that his effigy was burned in right-wing demonstrations. His only crime was to want peace with our Arab and Palestinian neighbours."

"Israeli police and the internal security services Shin Bet also came under fire Sunday for failing to protect Mr. Rabin."

Police Minister Moshe Shalev said: "No body thought such a thing could happen here. All the security plans for Israeli leader must be reviewed."

Police sources said the head of the special Shin Bet unit in charge of security could be sacked.

The army, meanwhile, suspended its pullback from the occupied West Bank, despite pledges from Acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres that the peace process would go on.

Rabin death deals heavy blow to U.S. diplomacy

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin dealt a heavy blow to U.S. Middle East diplomacy, removing the one figure seen in Washington as strong enough to persuade Israelis to pay the price of peace.

U.S. analysts said the Clinton administration was likely to move quickly to try to show that the peace process would go ahead despite the death of Mr. Rabin, who was gunned down Saturday by a suspected Jewish extremist at a rally in Tel Aviv.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has made 13 shuttle diplomacy trips to the Middle East, pledged in a statement on Mr. Rabin's death that "we will rededicate ourselves

to... the promotion of Middle East peace."

Experts said U.S. efforts could be seriously handicapped by the lack of any real substitute for Mr. Rabin, the linchpin of Washington's drive to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the region after nearly 50 years of war and tension.

"I think it's a very serious blow to the peace process," Michael Hudson of Washington's Georgetown University said on CNN.

Alan Makovsky of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy said Mr. Rabin's strength was his ironclad reputation, above that of any other figure in the ruling Labour Party, as a champion of Israeli security.

That reputation enabled him to sign two historic agreements giving self-rule

to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to pursue negotiations with Syria for an Israeli withdrawal on the occupied Golan Heights.

While the peace process with the Palestinians is now well advanced, analysts said the death of Mr. Rabin could well slow still further the already struggling negotiations with Damascus.

"It makes it very difficult," Mr. Makovsky told Reuters. "I don't think there's any leader in Labour that has the stature of Rabin to do what is required, and that is withdrawal from the Golan."

Mr. Rabin's foreign minister and political rival Shimon Peres, who has assumed leadership of the government, is equally dedicated to peace but is hampered by his left-leaning reputation and general lack

of popularity, analysts said.

In a brief trip to Damascus Oct. 30, Mr. Christopher apparently made little headway in reviving the Israeli-Syrian talks that have run out of steam since a failed meeting in June between chiefs of staff of the two long-time foes.

The lack of any visible progress has led to speculation — denied by U.S. officials — that Syria may have decided to postpone any Golan deal until after Israeli elections planned for next June.

Some analysts said it was just possible that Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad could now be shocked by Mr. Rabin's assassination into pushing for a deal sooner than that. Others felt the general uncertainty could make the Syrian leader even more cautious.

Nor is the peace process

with the Palestinians entirely guaranteed. Although Israeli troop redeployments in the West Bank were negotiated in the latest agreement with the PLO in September, difficult talks loom next year on the "final status" of the Palestinian entity and the thorny issue of Jerusalem.

Many in Israel believe their government may have gone too far already with the PLO, and uprise any withdrawal on the strategic Golan plateau overlooking Israel.

In any event, analysts said Washington must be acutely aware that it could not afford to lose momentum in the crisis following Rabin's death.

"Very clearly, the U.S. position is going to be that the peace process must go forward with renewed energy," Mr. Makovsky said.

World condemns assassination

(Continued from page 1)

and Jordan and the agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)," Dr. Ghali said.

"Prime Minister Rabin will forever be remembered for his courageous leadership these past three years."

Queen Elizabeth II said Sunday she was "very shocked" by the assassination, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said.

The queen made the statement from New Zealand, where she is attending a Commonwealth summit.

The Spanish government condemned the "savagery" assassination and said it hoped the Middle East peace process would not be deterred.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, whose country currently chairs the European Union's rotating presidency, will travel to Israel to attend Mr. Rabin's funeral, official sources said.

This "criminal attack" was not only an attack against one of the main authors of the peace process, it also targeted "the momentum for dialogue and understanding in the region which was so hard-won," the government said in a statement.

Spain's King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia also sent a telegramme addressing their condolences to Mr. Rabin's widow and to Israeli President Ezer Weizman.

Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao expressed shock at the death of a man he called a "champion of peace," while Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating said he was "incredulous" at Mr. Rabin's assassination.

"He was a real leader who made great strides for peace. He took the risks — he was a tough person. He had the support of the sceptics in Israel," Mr. Keating said.

Spokesman for Australia's 100,000 strong Jewish community also expressed shock.

Isa Liebler, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, described the killing as a "violent, senseless act."

Ron Weiser, president of the New South Wales Zionist Council, said if the killer did not act alone, he acted "for a very, very small minority."

Cambodia's First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh said the assassination proved the need to be

careful of extremist elements, "wherever they are."

"He was a very, very courageous man, a symbol for peace," the prince said.

Philippine President Fidel Ramos voiced "profound grief and indignation" and said terrorism must not derail the peace process.

King Birendra of Nepal described Mr. Rabin's death as an "immense loss not only to the state of Israel but also to all the peace-loving nations of the world," praising his efforts to "establish just and durable peace."

Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba said he was deeply grieved by the "dastardly" assassination.

"Mr. Rabin was a man of great vision, courage and determination," Mr. Deuba said.

In the world's largest Muslim country, Indonesia, Foreign Ministry spokesman Ghafor Fady said that "as a peace-loving nation we are against these deplorable acts of violence."

Abdul Rahman Wahid, chairman of Indonesia's largest Muslim organisation Nahdlatul Ulama, also regretted the slaying.

"We are shocked. This is very disturbing for all who want the Arab-Israeli peace process to continue," said Mr. Wahid.

Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong described Mr. Rabin as a brave leader who fought for the survival of Israel and worked with the Arab World to secure a lasting peace in the Middle East, Singapore television said.

South Korean President Kim Young-Sam said Koreans believed Mr. Rabin's "contribution to and sacrifice for peace was not in vain."

Taiwan government spokesman Jason Hu expressed his government's sorrow, adding it shared the pain of the Israeli people.

Eastern European leaders also expressed their shock and sorrow over the murder, but called on peace-makers not to abandon their quest for reconciliation.

"President (Vaclav) Havel condemns this attack and hopes that the peace process will not be slowed and that Rabin's work will be completed even after his death," a statement issued by the Czech Republic president's spokesman said.

Polish Prime Minister Jozef Oleksy said he was "deeply upset and shocked" by the

killing of Mr. Rabin who was "one of the most eminent statesmen of the 20th century and the herald of peace."

In Romania — the only East European country which has always maintained good relations with Palestinians and Israelis — President Ion Iliescu described Mr. Rabin's death as "an immense loss for the Israeli people."

In Budapest, the Hungarian government called Mr. Rabin the "initiator and chief player of the peace process in the Middle East from its very beginning."

Mr. Rabin's assassination showed that "unfortunately there are extremists in all countries of the region who will try to assert their views based on hatred and exclusion," a government statement said.

Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, who will attend the funeral, expressed shock and outrage at the killing, saying the peace process must not become derailed.

"Prime Minister Rabin's death is a deep tragedy for the Israeli people and a serious loss to the peace process," Mr. Carlsson said in a statement.

The future will show that Mr. Rabin was right, European Commission President Jacques Santer said.

Israel has lost a "great leader," the executive chief of the European Union said in a statement, expressing his "deep shock."

Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said Mr. Rabin was "a great statesman" who showed the Middle East the road to peace and balance.

"Together with Foreign Minister Peres, he replaced confrontation and violence with reconciliation and dialogue," Mr. Vranitzky added in an interview with Austrian national radio.

The World Bank expressed sorrow over the assassination, but pledged to continue working for peace in the region.

World Bank President James Wolfensohn, travelling to Jerusalem to attend the funeral of the slain leader, extended his condolences to Israel and Mr. Rabin's family.

"Peace has lost a friend and the world a great leader," Mr. Wolfensohn said in a written statement.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, at times fighting back tears and

choking on his words, lamented the death of Mr. Rabin as an "extraordinary tragedy."

"It's an extraordinary tragedy and what is so ironic is that among Israeli leaders nobody understood the concerns of the critics of the peace process better than Rabin did," Mr. Kissinger said in a live interview from Hong Kong with CNN television.

Slovakia expressed shock and sorrow and said Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar would attend Mr. Rabin's funeral.

Swiss President Kaspar Villiger was "dismayed and deeply saddened" by Mr. Rabin's death, but the president hoped the Middle East peace process would continue.

Italy's foreign minister said her heart was bleeding over the assassination and expressed concern about the effects the murder could have on the Mideast peace process.

"My heart is bleeding," Susanna Agnelli was quoted

as saying by the Italian news agency ANSA.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak mourned Mr. Rabin as a man of peace who fell from "treacherous bullets at the hands of extremists who are enemies of peace."

Norway expressed shock at the assassination of Mr. Rabin, honoured in Oslo with a share of the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize just 11 months ago.

"This was terribly tragic news and everyone is shocked," said Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, who learned of Mr. Rabin's death on landing in Beijing to begin an official visit to China.

"During the peace process I have noticed that Rabin had increasingly come to lead the work to convince his compatriots they had to find a solution without the use of force," Ms. Brundtland told the Norwegian news agency NTB.

"In his last hour he fought for peace."

"Peace will not be affected"

(Continued from page 1)

any accords and promised to freeze the peace process if they came to power, have taken a low profile since the assassination.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in a statement, said U.S. ties to Israel were unshakable. "History will record Prime Minister Rabin as one of the towering figures of this century."

The Middle East peace process rests now in stalemate on the Syrian front, but with Israel and Palestine Liberation Organisation in the process of implementing a pullback of Israeli troops on the West Bank.

Mr. Christopher said the Clinton administration remains committed to Mr. Rabin's causes: Israel's security, friendship with the United States and the promotion of Middle East peace.

In this vein, former President Jimmy Carter, who oversaw Israel's pioneering peace agreement with Egypt in 1979, said, "We can't let an assassin stop the peace process."

"We are going to have to be patient with the Israelis," Mr. Carter told CNN, even though he said a majority of Israelis want peace with the

Palestinians.

"They have been very courageous moving forward on the peace front," the former president said.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir raved the assassination, but rejected his political opponent's deals with the PLO and predicted the landmark accords would never be implemented.

Mr. Shamir told French radio the accords granting greater autonomy to Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank would never be applied because the majority of Israel's population opposed them.

"These agreements... should never become a reality because the majority of Jewish people oppose them," Mr. Shamir told French radio.

Mr. Peres allowed a glimpse of the difficult task ahead, saying that "worry is eating my heart" over having to tackle peacemaking without Mr. Rabin.

"I know exactly what we are facing," a bleary-eyed Peres said. "This is the time... for getting the country out of the cycle of wars, to get the Jewish people away from their past and grant them a new future."

Clinton's search for answers is raising questions

By Laurence McQuillan
Renter

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's public and private search for answers on how best to govern is generating ridicule among Republicans, alarm among Democrats and questions about where he can turn for political support.

Increasingly defensive, White House officials have been fending off the clamour over Mr. Clinton's latest bout of soul-searching, describing the president as a "thoughtful person" anxious and open to the ideas of others.

Often criticised for lacking firm convictions, Mr. Clinton in the span of just a few weeks told various audiences and interviewers he and fellow Democrats raised taxes "too much" in 1993 and lamented that he acted "like a prime minister, not a president" during his first two years in office.

He also has said he thought the country was in a "funk" and cited it as one of the reasons that Americans didn't seem to be listening to his message and crediting him with more accomplishments.

Democrats in Congress are described as furious with Mr. Clinton, fearful that party loyalty and ideology comes second to his drive to win reelection next year.

Nebraska Senator Bob Kerrey, a Democrat who ran against Mr. Clinton in 1992 for the party's nomination, complains that such shifts are "strangling the confidence that we have in Congress that whatever it is we do is going to continue to enjoy the support of the

president."

Republicans strike the same theme, but sound more amused. "You have to question how long he will stay on the position he enunciates," House Republican leader Dick Armey said.

The latest Wall Street Journal/NBC news poll shows a 46 per cent job approval rating for Mr. Clinton, roughly the same level he has had throughout his presidency.

Ironically, the rise of Republicans to power in Congress has helped Mr. Clinton. He rails against their policies and paints himself as the champion of those who fear their budget cuts.

"The survey found that 40 per cent of Americans believe Mr. Clinton will help the nation's middle class, compared with 23 per cent who put their faith in the hands of Republicans."

He has been trying to create a "new" image of himself, one that reflects the "old" image voters elected in 1992.

In a chat with syndicated columnist Ben Wattenberg, Mr. Clinton bared his soul and said that his initial emphasis on economics had blurred his centrist "new Democrat" identity.

He told Mr. Wattenberg he now realised that after the 1994 election, which gave Republicans control of the House and Senate for the first time in four decades, he had created "a cardboard cutout of himself."

Mr. Clinton's effort to "reinvent" his public image, and make himself

more of a centrist at a time when conservatives are politically popular, has touched off some fierce infighting.

He has turned to Dick Morris, a Connecticut-based political consultant who worked on his campaigns for Arkansas governor.

Mr. Morris's political history has taken him from Democrats to Republicans and now back to Mr. Clinton. His influence with the president has miffed other loyalists who resent his ability to shape the policy and message coming out of the White House.

Although White House officials praise Mr. Morris publicly, more and more view him as an intruder who has undue influence with the president and with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Several blamed him for policy shifts that led to blistering attacks of Mr. Clinton in newspaper editorials. One in the Washington Post said he had "walked away" from the welfare reforms he once sought because of politics.

"He thinks he gains by such behaviour, but he diminishes himself," the Post said.

Even an ardent Clinton supporter fired a public warning. Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Liberal Children's Defence Fund, warned him in an open letter he has a "personal responsibility to protect children from unjust policies."

Saying every president since Franklin Roosevelt protected poor children, she pointedly told Mr. Clinton: "It is a precedent I hope and trust you will uphold."

Israel economy needs stable post-Rabin government — economists

TEL AVIV (R) — The future of Israel's economy and its markets will depend on whether Acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres can set up a stable government until elections are held in late 1996, economists said Sunday.

The assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Saturday night sent the stock market tumbling the following morning.

"The capital markets don't like a situation of uncertainty," said Hannah Pree-Zan, head of the securities department at Bank Hapoalim, Israel's biggest bank.

The main indices plunged nearly four per cent in early trading, before recovering slightly in the afternoon as institutions began to buy. The benchmark Mishranim index of top 100 shares closed down 3.32 per cent or 6.32 points at 183.87.

"We were expecting a much bigger disaster today," one equities trader said.

Foreign investors, who have gobbled up Israeli shares in recent months, are

likely to be nervous in the short term and prices may drop further before bottoming out. This could provide good buying opportunities, analysts said.

In the long run, politics will play a decisive role. Some economists believe Mr. Peres, a former finance and prime minister, may even implement some necessary economic reforms.

"If Peres can set up a stable government until elections, I see him following a policy of more fiscal restraint," said Jonathan Katz, senior economist at Capital Holdings Consultants.

"Maybe in early 1996 he will come up with some sort of economic plan with the Bank of Israel with budget cuts, lowering of interest rates and some movement of the shekel," he said.

Such measures would help narrow a ballooning current account deficit, one of the country's most worrisome economic problems, thereby giving a boost to the capital markets.

As prime minister, Mr. Peres was responsible for a 1985 anti-inflation and economic stabilisation programme that involved drastic budget cuts and wage erosion.

"Peres will want to show he is in control," Mr. Katz said.

If Mr. Peres fails to rally strong support for his government, he will be forced to call early elections, which would adversely affect markets, analysts said.

The central bank, meanwhile, said it did not plan any extraordinary measures in coming days in the foreign currency market or with regard to monetary policy.

"I don't see anything like this on the horizon. Everything will continue as normal," a Bank of Israel spokesman said.

The local currency is not expected to be destabilised. The shekel has been strengthened by recent inflows of capital due to high interest rates.

Kuwait austerity unlikely in 1995/96, Al Shall says

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is unlikely to see belt-tightening economic reform for another year because politicians seeking reelection in October 1996 will want to lure voters with handouts, an economic consultancy said Saturday.

Even if long-awaited reforms were tried before the parliamentary poll the result would probably backfire, with officials freezing costly subsidies and utility fees at current levels, Al Shall Economic Consultancy said in a weekly review.

"We are not very optimistic about laying down the basis for budgetary reform in 1996. We hope no firm resolutions will be issued to deal with this such as freezing subsidised prices, fees and tariffs," it said.

The government plans to eliminate its big budget deficit by the end of the century but belt-tightening measures planned over the past two years remain on the drawing

board. Al Shall, however, urged the opposition-dominated parliament to debate the deficit over the coming 12 months to concentrate minds on the plight of public finances and thereby lessen the chances of a massive handouts.

"Discussing the possibilities of confronting the budget deficit and concentrating on its risks might check the government's and deputies' proposed projects aimed at buying the political loyalty at the expense of the budget," it said.

"This would mean less prospect of creating future budget commitments," it added.

After the 1991 Gulf war the government wrote off almost all Kuwaiti consumer debt and gave civil servants a 25 per cent pay rise as one of several "comfort" measures to ease conditions after Iraq's seven-month

occupation.

The 1.4 billion dinar (\$4.6 billion) shortfall, equivalent to a fifth of national wealth as measured by gross domestic product, is slowly eating up precious foreign reserves hoarded over the past 30 years against the day oil runs out.

Cuts in perhaps the world's most lavish welfare state will entail political risks for a traditionally generous government, but only fiscal discipline will preserve the wealth underpinning the country's security in a volatile region, diplomats say.

The deficit has been fuelled by big defence spending, low prices for Kuwait's single big export, oil, cost related to huge private sector bad debt equivalent to 90 per cent of gross domestic product, commercial losses caused by Iraqi occupation and a fall in population since the war.

U.S. central bank must cut rates, policymaker says

WASHINGTON (R) — A Federal Reserve (Fed) policymaker said Friday the central bank should cut interest rates to spur the slow economy.

"We should be lower than where we are now," Fed Governor Lawrence Lindsey told Reuters in an interview. He foresaw the United States returning early in the next century to an economic era of low interest rates, balanced budgets and solid growth that characterised the 1950s.

The Fed cut short-term interest in July for the first time in nearly three years, trimming the federal funds rate at which commercial banks trade money among themselves by a quarter percentage point, to 5 1/2 per cent.

Mr. Lindsey has been arguing behind the scenes for months that the central bank should reduce rates further, but so far has not been able to convince his fellow policymakers to go along.

The central bank's policy-making Federal Open Market Committee meets again on Nov. 15 to plot rate strategy.

Analysts said Mr. Lindsey's call for lower rates should be buttressed at that meeting by recent signs of a slowing economy. Government statistics released Friday showed that job growth remained tepid last month.

Still, most analysts do not expect the central bank to cut rates again until after the Clinton administration and Congress hammer out an agreement to balance the budget. That is not likely to happen until December, Mr. Lindsey said though

that the Fed should not be hostage to budget policy and should be prepared to ease credit now if growth six to nine months ahead is likely to be slow.

That is just what he expects. "It will be slow," the Fed policymaker said.

Growth in the short-term will be curbed by the efforts to balance the budget as government outlays are reduced, he said.

Eventually, the economy will benefit from the budget cuts as reduced government borrowing leads to lower interest rates, boosting growth.

Long-term rates have already fallen sharply, partly because of expectations that the Clinton administration and Congress will reach a credible package to balance the budget.

Mr. Lindsey said a successful drive to balance the budget should eventually translate into about a 1 1/2 point fall in long-term rates.

About half of that has already occurred. "Ultimately, the whole package is probably worth about 150 basis points, of which we've seen maybe half," Mr. Lindsey said.

He saw no reason why short-term rates should not eventually fall by a similar amount. If the Fed doesn't ratify the drop in long-term rates by cutting short-term rates, then long rates will move back up, he said.

With the government acting to balance its budget by 2002, and the Fed moving to stabilise prices, Mr. Lindsey posited the possibility of a return to the economic conditions that characterised the 1950s.

"It's the year 2002. The Fed has engineered price stability... and we have balanced budgets as far as the eye can see. That's the 1950s," he said.

"You'll have the 5 1/2 per cent mortgages that our parents got and you'll have long bonds in the 4 to 4 1/2 (per cent) range and the short end in the 2 1/2 (per cent) range," he added.

The benchmark 30-year treasury bond Friday was trading at close to 6.3 per cent. Mortgage are about 7.4 per cent.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can get career activities completed more efficiently today. Be sure to follow through with the directives of older experts.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can carry through with whatever you wish today where an outsider is concerned or who has different views from yours.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day today to build up your business fences and find greater security. Reach fine agreement with your associates.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study the outside picture and get into practical affairs which can bring advancement and success at this time. Accept a dinner invitation.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Bring the new week properly by diving right into your career activities today and get it completed efficiently and be consistent.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Put more effort into your special talents at this time and they will work far more efficiently and you can gain added benefits.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study your home and business affairs and know how best to improve them today. Beware of awful disagreements at home in the evening.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Sit down with partners and plan how to make today and tonight brighter for all. Get many projects completed which are constructive in nature.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a fine day today for consulting with financiers, business moguls, physicians and clear up any disagreements you may have.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 30) Take action on the decisions arrived at during the weekend and get fine results. Contact those who can be of help to you at this time.

AQUARIUS: (January 31 to February 19) Get in touch with clever advisors who can assist you with some plan of success so that you can make real progress towards meeting your goals.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Pursue your needs in a positive manner and contact experts who can be of assistance to you at this time. Relax at home with loved ones tonight.

Birthstone of November: Topaz. — Tiger's Eye

REQUIRED Executive Secretary

A leading Jordanian Co. is seeking to employ an Executive Secretary with the following qualifications:

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Oman pins hopes on gas income

MUSCAT (AFP) — Oman expects new gas projects to generate high income and help it in restoring balance to its economy that has been hurt by low oil prices, head of state Sultan Qaboos said in an interview.

The Sultan said Oman would pursue plans to exploit its natural gas reserves following large discoveries over the past few years.

"Certainly, natural gas will be an important element in our next five-year development plan (in 1996)," he told the London-based Middle East magazine in an interview carried by the official Omani News Agency.

"Actually, experts have indicated that after the year 2000, our income from gas will be almost equivalent to that from oil," he said.

Oman is planning to set up its first liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant that would produce around six million tonnes per year.

FOR SALE

- 1) 'NAD' (American made), Hi Fi Stereo system.
- 2) Silver Wear - Christoffe and Russian made with silver trays etc...
- 3) Original painting by Arab artists.

Please call 662578 between 6 & 8 p.m.

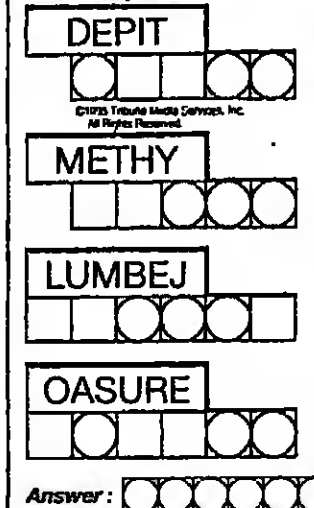
THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"What's bugging the cat? She claws me every time I take my shirt off!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Yesterday's Jumbles: NEWLY AWARD TRUANT BAMBOO. Answer: What the ducks called their community — DOWN TOWN.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

That looks lovely, Hilda.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon

ACROSS

- 1 Sight in the Southwest
- 5 Architectural style
- 10 Common abbr.
- 14 Baldwin of Ilms
- 15 Irregularly notched
- 16 Wrestling type
- 17 Tabard
- 19 Narrow-minded person
- 20 Total
- 21 Lets up
- 23 Wind indicator
- 24 Edible flatfish
- 25 Add
- 28 Very smallest
- 31 Swiss canton
- 32 Lukewarm
- 34 Tooth: prel.
- 35 Gangster weapons
- 37 Took a gamble
- 39 Widen
- 40 King Arthur's father
- 42 Shan or Jerry
- 44 106
- 45 Warmed over
- 47 Financed
- 49 Mystery writer's award
- 50 Copycat
- 51 Dropped
- 53 Spotted felines
- 57 Key — pie
- 58 Attire for a hula dancer
- 60 Work's by Pindar
- 61 " — en Rose" (Edith Piaf song)
- 62 To shelter
- 63 Caresses gently
- 64 Pitchers
- 65 Ginch

DOWN

- 1 Aromatic spice
- 2 NC school
- 3 Bench
- 4 On the go
- 5 Stood up for
- 6 Speechily
- 7 Actor Calhoun
- 8 Doctrine
- 9 Operatic basso, Siepi
- 10 Prop for growing roses
- 11 Popular sportswear
- 12 Fr. girlfriend
- 13 Journals at sea
- 18 Praying figure, in art
- 22 Tough situation
- 24 Moist
- 25 Serve as an omen
- 26 Chatter
- 27 Necessity on a safari
- 28 Spent
- 29 Rung of a ladder
- 30 Rellings
- 33 Less colorful
- 36 Like some grapes
- 38 Arranges
- 41 Fad
- 43 Moves briskly
- 46 Gnarl
- 48 Burmese region
- 50 Race of gods led by Odin
- 51 Theatrical disaster
- 52 Love of Radames
- 53 Wash
- 54 Initale
- 55 A Barrymore
- 56 Printer's word
- 59 Uncooked

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

TOAST KALE ABBE
ADIEU AGUE GRAY
CODEX YARN RARE
TRADE MARK FENDS
SOAK SHIED
MARMOT UNSNAPI
OGREE ECZEMA ARE
SIGNS EER LAMER
ELI AVENGE ME TE
SESAME ABASES
SITROTS USER
ARECA COPYRIGHT
LITRA BONE ELLAS
ACEO IRAN FLORA
ROOE BENO TOWER

Peanuts



Andy Cap



Mutt'n'Jeff



Large U.S. fund eyes investment in Jordan soon

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A multi-million dollar growth fund designed for the Middle East/North African region could be ready to start making investments as early as the first quarter of 1996, a head of the fund's co-managing company told the Jordan Times during a recent interview.

Telal Othman, head of Grove Financial in the U.S. was on a third trip to the region during the Middle East North African (MENA) economic summit last week, working with local partners to identify private sector joint-venture projects for the \$250 million fund to "hit the ground running" at the start of the year.

Mr. Othman said that documentation for the fund is almost complete and he expects that potential investors will be visiting the region next month to explore possibilities of joint ventures.

Financing for the fund will come mainly from U.S. investors, but will also include some European investors, and will be guaranteed by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), a U.S. government agency. OPIC provides medium- and long-term financing to American companies operating in emerging markets as well as political risk insurance.

The fund, co-managed by Grove Financial and Sigler, Guff and Co., both of the U.S., will be guaranteed from the U.S. side for 10 years for direct investments in Jordan, Palestinian self-rule territories and the Israeli-occupied West Bank areas, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. Co-managers are being advised locally by the Cairo-Amman bank.

In Jordan, Mr. Othman said, targets for investment will be tourism, industrial manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and garment apparel. "We are looking for projects which will be foreign exchange earners, for example, tourism or export industries," he said. Most projects targeted will be medium-size, with an average \$5 million investment capital requirement.

Mr. Othman added that in Jordan, the availability of projects has fueled enthusiasm of investors, and expects that investments will come faster than usual. "Funds of this nature are usually invested over a four-year period," he said, "but based on the availability of projects and the high entrepreneurial level of skill in the Jordanian business community, we expect that utilisation would be much sooner than that."

The equity fund is one of several projects backed by OPIC that will be announced in the coming few months, the fruition of an OPIC investment mission to the region in July. OPIC President Ruth Harkin last week, at the close of MENA declined to discuss specific projects under discussion, but cited two significant projects finalised already in the Palestinian self-rule territories: A cement factory, financed in part by a \$2 million loan and backed by \$3 million risk insurance to the U.S. company Bucheit International and a \$3 million loan application from Culligan International for a plant to bottle natural spring water near Jericho.

Business Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Association wants sales tax excluded from lawyer's fees

☆☆ LAWYERS ARE greatly disappointed with the inclusion of their fees on the list of products and services subjected to the sales tax. Their association has begun a major move to study the legality of this measure with the aim of excluding lawyers' fees from the sales tax. Association head Kamal Naser said law is not a profession that makes profit in the true sense of the word but rather a mission through which a lawyer seeks to uphold righteousness and cooperate with the judiciary to ensure fairness to the citizens (Al Dustour).

Tenders Department forming information centre

☆☆ THE GOVERNMENT Tenders Department is currently working on enhancing its functions by making the department a centre of information for the construction sector, the engineering offices and contracting companies through a computer linkage between all the parties. According to Naser Madadhab, the department's director, work is also underway to connect all public works directorates with the department within a special computer system in order to obtain information without having to write official letters. Mr. Madadhab indicated that there was cooperation between the department and the association of engineers and contractors to cut back on licensing routine and amending classifications procedures (Al Dustour).

Agreements to build four new hotels on Dead Sea shore to be signed

☆☆ AGREEMENTS TO set up four five-star and four-star hotels on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea will be signed within the coming two weeks, Water and Irrigation Minister Saleh Irshaidat has said. The hotels are estimated to cost \$200 million and to provide 1,500 job opportunities (Al Dustour).

Drug company wins \$5.6m of Arab orders

☆☆ THE ARAB Centre for Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals has signed a contract with the Iraqi Ministry of Health to supply it with antibiotic medicines valued at \$4 million. The Arab Centre has also signed contracts to supply Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and the UAE with solid gelatin capsules for a total value of \$1.6 million. The Arab Centre generated a JD 15,837 profit during the first half of this year from sales that totalled JD 1.79 million (Al Aswaj).

Farmers to press for payment on tomato supplies

☆☆ JORDAN VALLEY farmers are being urged to attend a meeting this week to study the lack of progress over the payments of JD 300,000, representing price differentials of "industrial tomatoes" delivered to the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company at Ardab. The meeting will consider forming a committee to meet senior officials to resolve the problem and obtain the money for the farmers who have been following up the issue unsuccessfully since May 1995. The Ministry of Finance is insisting on not paying the price differentials and wants the company to cut its operation costs and to pay the price differentials to eligible farmers (Al Dustour).

Committee to press for early increase in employees' salaries

☆☆ HASHEM DABBAS, head of the Lower House's Financial Committee, stressed that the committee insists on increasing the salaries of employees by JD 10 from the beginning of next year despite the intention of the finance minister to delay the wage rise until May 1996 for lack of funds to cover the full amount of the increase. Mr. Dabbas said "when the draft budget will be discussed, we shall demand raising the employees' salary. The committee's chief said he was informed by sources at the Ministry of Finance that the total of the draft budget was raised from JD 1,740 million to about JD 1,800 million in addition to a JD 400 million parallel financing budget. The deficit, estimated a month ago at JD 198 million, has been reduced after obtaining some new financial aid on the sidelines of the Amman Economic Summit (Al Aswaj).

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN				
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK P.C.	320	76845	241.000	240.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	17268	4500	4.470	4.470
BANK OF JORDAN	180	650	3.620	3.620
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	8750	10500	1.210	1.200
THE HOUSING BANK	1000	400	4.400	4.400
JORDAN KUNAAT BANK	130	833	6.400	6.400
JORDAN GULF BANK	23528	26601	1.140	1.130
JORDAN TRADING BANK	1800	6535	3.652	3.640
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	633	2352	3.750	3.740
BEIT ALMAL SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	15100	333	3.120	3.120
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	11200	15543	1.000	940
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	67228	17808	1.620	1.590
BANKS SECTOR				
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	325	780	2.500	2.400
INSURANCE SECTOR				
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	13850	22378	1.640	1.630
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	100000	900000	9.750	9.000
JORDAN NIPER MINERAL	100	448	2.500	2.400
NATIONAL POWER DEVELOPMENT SECURITIES	230	495	2.000	1.990
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	100	114	1.175	1.140
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALMA'IA	360	2825	9.770	9.770
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JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	1450	1079	4.000	4.000
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	273	328973	12.750	12.400
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JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	4000	5117	1.290	1.270
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	1300	3533	1.540	1.490
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1450	519	1.120	1.100
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	4400	8441	1.920	1.900
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Foreign Exchange Market Summary (October 30 - November 3, 1995)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit appreciated sharply against the yen last week, while appreciating modestly against the mark and depreciating against sterling. It ended the week 2.01 per cent higher against the yen, 0.58 per cent higher against the mark, and 0.13 per cent lower against sterling.

The dollar rose marginally against the yen and sterling Monday, while stabilising against the mark. Trading was thin and directionless ahead of the results of Quebec's referendum. Meanwhile, analysts indicated that worries about Boris Yeltsin's health lent support to the dollar, whereas worries about European monetary union developments, the Mexican financial crisis, and tensions raised by the U.S. budget debate may affect the dollar negatively.

The U.S. unit appreciated against the yen Tuesday, while depreciating against the mark and sterling. Reports indicated that the dollar benefited from a no to secession vote in Quebec's referendum earlier in the day, but retreated later on worries about the Mexican economic outlook and a declining peso. Ongoing tensions over the U.S. budget negotiations also took their toll on the dollar.

The U.S. Congress and the president were scheduled to meet the following day to resolve the issue of whether Congress would allow the administration to raise the debt ceiling.

The dollar rose against other major currencies Wednesday. It rose on investors' renewed economic confidence in some European countries. The U.S. unit also benefited from the release of the National Association of Purchasing Management index revealing weakness in the U.S. economy. The index fell unexpectedly from 48.3 in September to 46.8 in October, triggering investors to believe that the Fed might ease its monetary policy. The U.S. bond market rallied afterwards, which lent support to the dollar.

The U.S. unit continued its appreciation against the mark and yen Thursday, while depreciating against sterling. The yen came under pressure after U.S. authorities indicted the Japanese bank, Daiwa, for conspiracy to defraud the United States. The news was interpreted as a sign of deep problems in Japan's banking sector.

The dollar retreated against other major currencies at the end of the week, however. It declined following a sharp sell-off in the Mexican peso, which fell on rumours of political instability in Mexico, including talk of an army coup. The news was denied later by the Mexican government. Reports also indicated that the dollar fell earlier in the day after the U.S. Labour Department released October's employment report. The report showed a rise of 166,000 in non-farm payrolls, compared to a revised rise of 55,000 in September. The report was interpreted to have hired at a weaker than sought U.S. economy.

The U.S. unit, thus, ended the week at 1.4167 marks, 103.89 yen and at \$1.5800 to sterling.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin				
Date: Nov. 3, 1995				
Currency	1 Jordanian D.	1 U.S. Dollar	1 British Pound	1 Swiss Franc
U.S. Dollar	0.7000	1.0000	0.7500	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.3333	1.3333	1.0000	1.4286
Deutsche Mark	0.7000	0.7000	1.4286	1.0000
Japanese Yen	160.00	160.00	109.38	160.00
Swiss Franc	1.4286	1.4286	0.7000	1.0000
French Franc	6.5548	6.5548	166.67	6.5548
Italian Lira	2036.37	2036.37	1936.27	2036.37
Belgian Franc	40.3399	40.3399	40.3399	40.3399

Mourning keys Heat rally past Cavaliers

MIAMI (R) — The new guys put their stamp on the Miami Heat on Saturday.

Alonzo Mourning scored seven points during a 13-4 fourth-quarter burst as the Heat beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 85-71 in Pat Riley's debut as head coach.

Mourning, acquired Friday in a blockbuster trade with the Charlotte Hornets, had 15 points, five rebounds and five blocks for the Heat.

But Serbian Predrag Danilovic, making his NBA debut after starring in Europe, was the high scorer for Miami, netting 16 points before being ejected in the fourth quarter for fighting with Chris Mills.

The Heat showed the defensive toughness that had become Riley's trademark with the New York Knicks over the last four years. Miami held Cleveland to just 38 per cent shooting from the floor (26-of-68).

"We weren't much better than them so we had to shut them down," said Riley. "We only had 18 and 13 points in the second half. I think that's the way it's going to be with us because we are a post-up and rebounding team. We don't have the consistent number of shooters from the outside."

"Everyone stepped up and played well," Mourning said. "We're going to be a team to be reckoned with. I am pleased with what we have. If we can get practices in and stay healthy, we're going to be very dangerous."

Cleveland was held to 24 points in the second half and never led. Tyrone Hill led the Cavaliers with 13 points.

In Charlotte, Larry Johnson and Dell Curry scored 22 points apiece as the Hornets welcomed their three new additions with a 119-108 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Glen Rice, one of three players acquired from Miami for Mourning, scored 21 points. Guard Khalid Reeves had two points and four assists and center Matt Geiger scored eight points.

Rookie center George Zidek scored 21 points and Kendall Gill had 14 and 10 assists for the Hornets. Vernon Maxwell scored 25 points for the 76ers.

In Atlanta, Steve Smith and Mookie Blaylock each made three three-pointers and scored 11 points in a 44-point third quarter as the Hawks routed the Orlando Magic 124-91.

Smith scored a game-high 27 points. He sank seven three-pointers, half of Atlanta's 14 which tied a team mark set last March.

In his return to his former Atlanta home, Jon Koncak — playing for the injured Shaquille O'Neal — scored four points and grabbed six rebounds in 22 minutes.

In Chicago, the Bulls blew open a close game in the third quarter, then sat Scottie Pippen and Michael Jordan in the fourth as they routed the Boston Celtics 107-85.

Pippen scored 21 points and Jordan 16 in a game that saw the Bulls outscore Boston 35-19 in the third quarter to swell a 46-40 lead to 81-59 heading into the final period.

Bulls center Luc Longley, who missed last night's game due to a one-game suspension, added 12 points.



Orlando Magic center Shaquille O'Neal watches from the bench as his teammates face Atlanta. O'Neal is sidelined with a broken thumb (Reuters photo)

In Dallas, Popeye Jones had 24 points and 13 rebounds as the Mavericks defeated the Golden State Warriors 99-84.

Jones shot 9-of-17 from the field, falling one point shy of his career high.

Latrell Sprewell and Tim Hardaway scored 18 apiece for the Warriors.

In Denver, Sean Elliott scored 32 points and David Robinson 31 as the San Antonio Spurs scored a 116-108 victory over the Nuggets.

The Spurs beat Denver for

the 11th straight time, including a three-game sweep in last season's first-round playoffs.

Mahmoud Abdul Rauf led Denver with 30 points, 21 in the first half.

At Indiana, the Pacers squandered a 24-point third-quarter lead, but recovered to beat the expansion Toronto Raptors 97-89 in their home opener.

Toronto started the fourth quarter with a 13-7 run to take an 84-80 lead, but scored just five points in the final 6½

minutes. Reggie Miller scored 19 of his 23 points in the first half and Dale Davis finished with 19 points and 13 rebounds for Indiana.

In Milwaukee, Patrick Ewing had 17 points and 13 rebounds and the New York Knicks used a 10-14 run in the fourth quarter en route to an 84-71 victory over the Bucks.

Anthony Mason had 15 points and 11 rebounds and Charles Smith had 15 and 10 for New York.

In Seattle, Shawn Kemp had 23 points and 13 rebounds as the SuperSonics defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 103-89 in the Grand opening of the key arena.

Elden Campbell scored 24 points for the Lakers, who made a franchise-low 24 field goals.

At Washington, Robert Pack scored 26 points and dished out seven assists as the Bullets closed the game with a 13-2 run to defeat the Detroit Pistons 100-89.

NBA's youngest player displays maturity

SACRAMENTO (AP) — He chews bubble gum on the court and wears a lucky rubber band on his right wrist. In many ways, he's still the lanky high school kid who attended his senior prom last spring.

But Kevin Garnett also has the poise and ability that make him seem like a natural in the NBA, and that make his jump from prep to pros seem less remarkable.

"For a 19-year-old, he has a lot of maturity on the floor," Minnesota teammate Terry Porter said. "He knows the game, he knows how to run the floor."

Garnett, the first high school player to leap directly to the National Basketball Association in 20 years, made an impressive debut for the Timberwolves in a 95-86 loss to the Sacramento Kings.

The 2.1-metre-tall (6-foot-11) forward hit all four of his shots — ranging from a thundering dunk to an five-metre (18-foot) jumper — and scored eight points in 16 minutes. He did not fare well on defence against Walt Williams, but none of his teammates did either as Williams scored 20 points to lead the Kings.

Garnett grew up admiring Williams, and had a couple of posters of the Kings forward in his room. "Now it's Williams who's doing the admiring."

"He was very surprising to me because he was so poised out there," Williams said. "For a guy who's as young as he is, you'd think he'd be out of control or nervous, and he wasn't."

Garnett, the fifth choice in this year's NBA draft, is the youngest player in the league. Last year at this time, he was attending Farragut Academy in Chicago. A year earlier, he was at Mauldin High School in his hometown in South Carolina.

He entered the game with 5:55 left in the first quarter and needed less than three minutes to score his first NBA basket on a bank shot. He followed that with another short shot, the dunk and the jumper from the top of the key.

And Garnett even showed some ball-handling ability, making a no-look pass to Christian Laettner under the basket.

Maleeva powers past Fernandez

OAKLAND (R) — Surprising herself at times with the power of her shots, second seed Magdalena Maleeva held off fourth seed Mary Joe Fernandez 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 on Saturday in the semifinals of the Bank of the West Classic.

"It's the best I've played this year," Maleeva said after the one hour, 53 minute match. "I hit some shots that I didn't know I could hit, like forehand winners down the line."

The diminutive Bulgarian banged 34 winners, many of them coming off Fernandez's shaky second serve.

Maleeva will meet Japan's Ai Sugiyama in the final. Sugiyama was the beneficiary of the withdrawal of third seed Lindsay Davenport with a back injury before their semifinal.

The 20-year-old Sugiyama, ranked 63rd, has never won a WTA title. She reached the round of 16 at the French Open earlier this year.

Davenport had injured her back during the second set of her quarter-final victory over Helena Sukova on Friday night.

"I can't bend down. I can't move sideways," Davenport said. "There's no movement I can do without pain."

Fernandez outlasted Maleeva to win the first set, breaking her in the 11th game on a drop volley and then holding her own serve for a 7-5 win. But she sprained her lower back running for a shot late in the set.

"I had a hard time running to my left, but it was warm so it was OK," Fernandez said.

"We both played a great match and the difference was just a few points here or there."

Maleeva outslugged Fernandez in the second set 6-2.

"My serves and returns got better and instead of not trying to miss, I was going for it," Maleeva said. "I don't think the injury affected her."

Maleeva, 20, broke Fernandez in the second game of the third set to go up 3-0. After Fernandez held serve at 1-3, Maleeva fought off three break points with an ace and two baseline winners that kissed the sidelines to go up 4-1.

But Fernandez broke back to 4-5 when a nervous Maleeva shanked a crosscourt forehand. Maleeva broke Fernandez to win the match after her opponent missed an easy put-away at deuce and double-faulted at match point.

"This was the best year of my career," Maleeva said. "If I play as well as I did today, I'll win tomorrow."

Davenport also withdrew from the WTA tournament in Philadelphia next week. She is still hoping to play in the WTA championships in New York, which begin on November 13, and in the Federation Cup final against Spain, which starts the week of the November 20.

The bank of the West Classic has been hit with three major withdrawals this week — Monica Seles with a knee injury, Conchita Martinez with a leg injury and Davenport,



Jim Courier

Courier, Ferreira eliminated

PARIS (AFP) — Boris Becker, who makes a habit of winning the Paris Indoor Open every three years, moved one step away from his fourth triumph in the event on Saturday when he powered past South African Wayne Ferreira 6-2, 6-1.

The 27-year-old German, winner here in 1986, 1989 and 1992 now plays Pete Sampras who beat Jim Courier 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Becker, who had made sure of his place among the eight players who will contest the ATP World Championship finals in Frankfurt later this month by beating Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands late Friday, had struggled through three-set marathons all week to reach the semi-finals.

But against the ninth-seeded Ferreira the 27-year-old German pulled out all the stops — adjusting his booming service and testing the angles of his volleys in a marathon ten minute opening service game.

It was the only time he was in serious danger in 68 minutes showdown and he obliterated the South African's two break points with service winners.

After that it was mostly one-way traffic. Becker, who had beaten Ferreira in five of their six previous encounters and who has won only one title so far this season (Marseille) — hit only half a dozen full aces.

But he thumped down a score of service winners and conceded only one other break point in the second set.

Ferreira, 24, recent winner at Ostrava and Lyon, admitted before the match that he

had been playing with a stomach muscle strain since Lyon.

Injury worry for Sampras

"I need it down after the match and hopefully it won't be a problem."

Sampras, who beat Becker in this year's Wimbledon final, emphasised that the German could never be ruled out.

"Boris struggled here a little bit this week but his game really came together to beat Ferreira," he said, adding: "It was a hell of an effort."

NBA results

Atlanta	124	Orlando	91
Charlotte	119	Philadelphia	108
Indiana	97	Toronto	89
Miami	85	Cleveland	71
Washington	100	Detroit	89
Chicago	107	Boston	85
Dallas	99	Golden State	84
New York	84	Milwaukee	71
San Antonio	116	Denver	108
Seattle	103	LA Lakers	89

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Dortmund take over first place

BERLIN (AP) — Borussia Dortmund finally knocked Bayern Munich from the top of the Bundesliga standings Saturday by running their winning streak to nine matches with a 3-0 rout of Dusseldorf.

The win, coupled with Munich's 4-1 upset at the hands of Frankfurt, put Dortmund even in points and up by six in goal difference.

Dortmund, the defending champions, had chased their rivals ever since Munich reeled off a Bundesliga record seven straight wins to begin the season.

But with German national team trainer Bert Vogts watching, Manfred Binz and Matthias Hanger fired two goals apiece to drop Munich to 2-3 since that

lightning start.

Frankfurt, winless in six matches, took advantage of a sloppy performance by Munich, whose talent-rich squad includes seven German national team players under Vogts' tutelage.

"I expected a lot more from a Bayern match," said Vogts.

Munich was stunned by Hanger's goal just six minutes into the match. Binz, the team captain, put Frankfurt ahead 2-0 with a volley shot off a corner kick in the 28th minute.

The two men then killed Munich's hopes of a comeback by striking again after Thomas Helmer cut Frankfurt's lead to 2-1 by firing a goal six minutes into the second half.

Dusseldorf threatened early

against Dortmund, but fell apart after Carsten Wolters scored the 1-0 in the 26th minute and Hiciko Herrlich erupted for his seventh season goal 40 seconds later.

Czech international Patrik Berger added Dortmund's last score near the end of the match.

"We lost the match after the first 10 minutes, when we had three opportunities and didn't score a goal," said Dusseldorf coach Alexander Ristke.

Third-place Moenchengladbach could close to within two points of Dortmund with a win over Schalke Sunday.

In other matches, Freiburg and Uerdingen played a 1-1 draw, Stuttgart and Bremen also played 1-1, as did 1860 Munich and Rostock.

Bowe stops Holyfield in 8th round

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Riddick Bowe climbed off the canvas to stop Evander Holyfield in the eighth round here on Saturday, avenging his only career loss and claiming his second victory over Holyfield in three meetings.

The fight, billed as the people's world heavyweight championship, lived up to their two previous encounters, which saw the title hell swap waists each time.

On Saturday, Bowe caught the exhausted Holyfield with a huge right in the eighth and sent him sprawling.

Holyfield got up, then walked, somewhat unsteadily, into a hail of punches. Referee Joe Cortez stopped the fight at 58 seconds of the eighth.

Two rounds earlier, Bowe went down for the first time in his career when he took a hard right to the chin.

But Holyfield was unable to finish him off and spent the rest of the round keeping Bowe at arm's length.

"I was bone tired," said Holyfield, whose record fell to 31-3 with 22 knockouts. "I got him down. I just didn't have the stamina to take advantage of it."

"I had to get up," said Bowe, who improved to 38-1. "I was thinking, 'hell, this ain't right.'"

There was virtually nothing between the two through seven rounds.

All three judges had the fight 66-65 to Holyfield through seven, and it would have been even but for the point Bowe was docked for a low blow in the fifth.

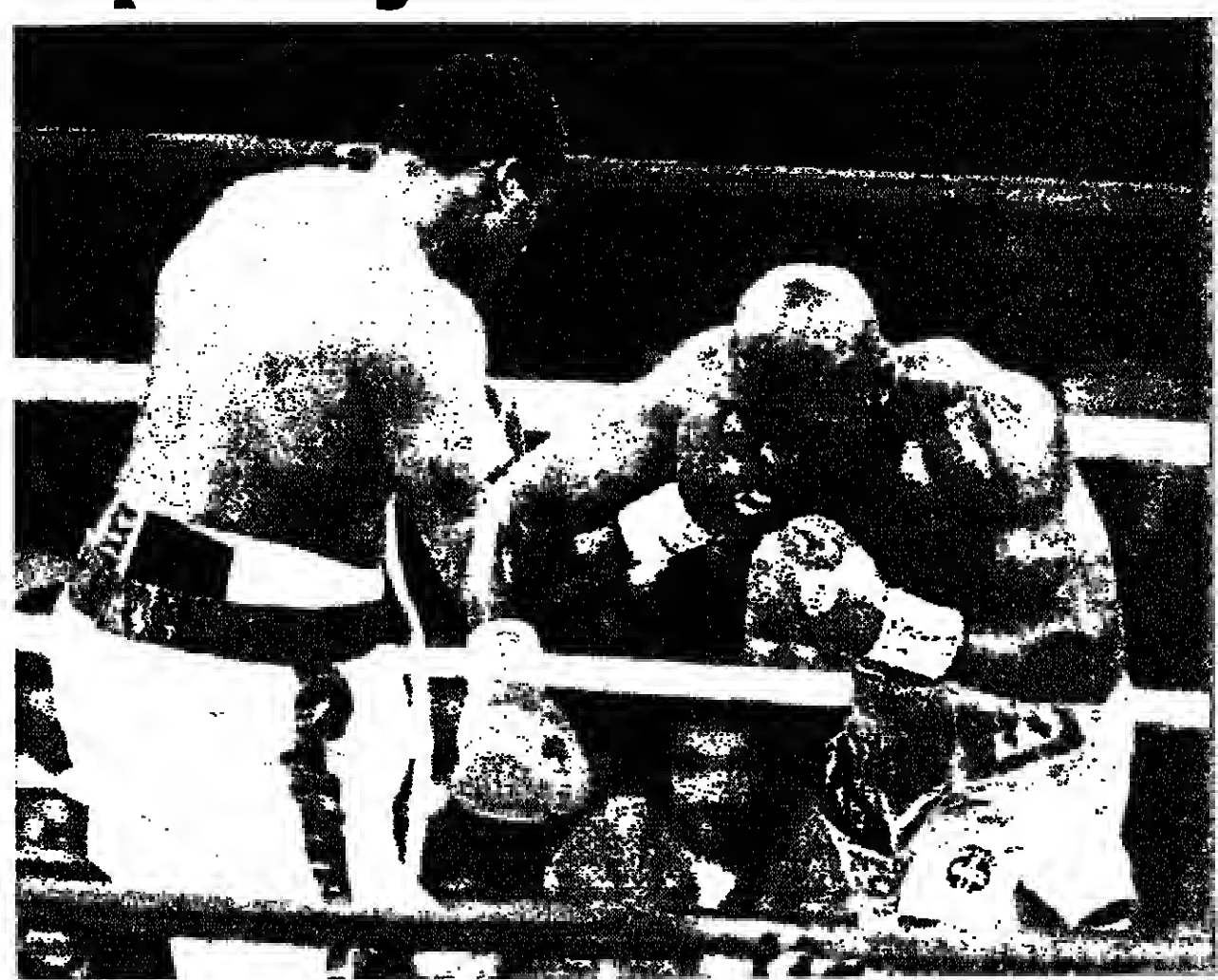
"I couldn't get in and use everything I had," Holyfield said. "His jab kept me out."

He was still effective, especially, Bowe said, with the left hook. But Holyfield was clearly tired by the fifth.

"I got to the point where mixing up shots with the big man took it out of me," said Holyfield, who weighed in 27 pounds (12kg) lighter than Bowe.

"I was thinking what was going to happen was what happened in the first fight and he would punch himself out," Bowe said.

Bowe took the undisputed crown off Holyfield with a 12-round decision on Nov. 13, 1992, knocking Holyfield down for the first time in his



Riddick Bowe (left) connects with a punch to the head of opponent Evander Holyfield knocking him down for the first time in the bout, during the eighth round of their

heavyweight fight Nov. 4. Holyfield was knocked out later in the round for the first time in his career. Bowe and Holyfield were fighting for the third time (Reuters photo)

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Q. 1 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 8 QJ10752 ♣ 964 ♦ 832

The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
Pass 3 ♠
What action do you take?

A - This is a pretty good hand facing a partner who could make a takeout double then raise, knowing you might have a bust. At the very least you owe partner another bid, and three hearts fits the bill. This shows a willingness to play game if North has anything in reserve.

Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 982 ♣ AQ83 ♦ 84 ♠ 83

The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
Pass 3 ♠
What action do you take?

A - Had East not opened the bidding and had partner responded one heart to your one-club opening, you would have jump raised to three hearts. Since your takeout double forced North to bid, take it easy. Partner could be broke, so two hearts is enough.

Q. 3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 42 ♣ 742 ♦ AKJ985 ♠ 44

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

A - There are those who would insist that a takeout double is the only correct call with this holding - to make sure you don't lose a heart fit; should partner bid clubs, you can always correct to diamonds. Include us out! With almost half your values in a short suit and such poor hearts, we prefer to emphasize the quality of the minor suit. Overall two diamonds.

Q. 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 472 ♣ 98 ♦ 10853 ♠ 964

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with three hearts. What action do you take?

A - Preempts are designed to pick your pockets, but here the picture is pretty slim. You have a minimum opening bid of which two points, the queen of hearts, are of doubtful value. You don't even have four cards in the other major. Pass, and see what develops.

Q. 5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 474 ♣ 9854 ♦ 08762 ♠ 4K7

The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
Pass 3 ♠
What action do you take?

A - It might seem automatic to pass, but suppose partner has a four hand and elects to compete with two spades? Odds are you'll land in the wrong contract. The only way to avoid being impaled on the horns of that particular dilemma is to bid two hearts. If partner then bids two spades, you can pass with a clear conscience.

Q. 6 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 474 ♣ 9854 ♦ 08762 ♠ 4K7

The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
Pass 3 ♠
What action do you take?

A - This is the same hand as in the previous question, but the auction is different. There were sound reasons to sit at the two-level. None can justify bidding at the three-level with such a poor hand. Pass, before you get into trouble.

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Jordanian street reaction is mixed to Rabin killing

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians appeared on Sunday to be largely divided in their reaction to the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, with some of them recalling the slain premier as a ruthless army general and politician who usurped Arab territories while others endorsing him as a soldier who sought peace after decades of bloodshed and conflict.

Most mainstream politicians described the death of Mr. Rabin as a sad loss while Islamists and leftists said they were shedding no tears for a man whom they saw as having devoted his life to maintaining Israel's occupation of Arab territories (see separate story).

Many also recalled that Mr. Rabin, in his then capacity as defence minister, was behind the "iron-fist" and "bone-breaking" policies that the Israeli security forces adopted against the Palestinians during the intifada that began in 1988.

Another segment of the society also appeared to have no opinion at all over the death of Mr. Rabin, who was 73. They argued that regardless of who was in power, Israel had a predetermined policy to deal with the Arabs and Palestinians and, as such, nothing was going to change, whether in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process or the Jewish state's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

"I'm not crying for Rabin," said Mohammad Azzam, a taxi driver. "The man had no mercy for the Arabs and he had always approached the peace process from a position of self-assumed superiority."

Muneer Afif, an automobile mechanic, disagreed. "Rabin might have been a ruthless soldier, but in the last few years he appeared to have undergone a dramatic change of heart towards peace."

"Perhaps it was his age that made him wiser," added Mr. Afif. "But we cannot simply deny that it was his policy that added some substance to the entire peace talks. If we were to have been stuck with (former Premier Yitzhak) Shamir, we would not have reached anywhere."

That was a reference to an assertion by Mr. Shamir, who lost in 1992 elections, that he would have stalled peace talks with the Palestinians for

10 years without progress while Israel made headway in its quest for normalised relations with the Arab World.

The anti-peace opposition hailed the assassination. "Rabin started his life as an extremist in terrorist organisations, he is credited with the policy of breaking the bones of Palestinians, what has happened is what he himself has sown," Hamzah Mansour, a spokesman for the bloc, was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Only a few Jordanians visited the residence of the Israeli ambassador here to sign a condolence register, but there were hundreds of telephone calls and messages of condolences, reporters said.

Among those signing the condolences register were Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Al Ahd Party leader Abdul Hadi Majali and Liberal Party leader Ahmad Zoubi.

Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi denounced the assassination of Mr. Rabin and said it was meant to undermine the peace process.

"Certainly, Mr. Rabin was, by any measure, seeking peace. He wanted the region to start a reconciliation stage," Mr. Lawzi told Jordan Television. "The assassination was a shock to all of us and I deplore the incident which I think targeted all the peace camp in our region."

Lower House of Parliament member and former Prime Minister Taher Al Masri voiced fear that the assassination would have negative implications on the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations in case extremism in Israel grows.

"The risks inherent in the assassination are clear," he said. "We might not see the influence on the peace process immediately, but it might appear in the future, especially that the Israeli elections are within a year and there is a possibility of the Likud Party winning the elections," Mr. Masri told JTV.

"We all know the implications of Likud winning the elections. Jordanian-Israeli relations might not be affected, but certainly there will be confusion and interruption on the Palestinian track of negotiations," said Mr. Masri, adding that this will make difficult for the Palestinian National Authority to reach agreements with Israel during the final phase of negotiations.

"The situation is uncertain, we're in a state of waiting. People are sick of the political violence," Mr. Musa said. "Rabin's death is a great loss to the Israeli people and

Palestinians divided on prospects after Rabin

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinians went about their business as usual on Sunday but were divided in their reaction to the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Except for a few isolated outbursts of euphoria in the Gaza Strip, Mr. Rabin's death did not spark cheers or celebrations. Nor did people seem to be mourning.

"Now you are dead, Rabin," said an announcer on a mosque's loudspeaker in the Deir Balah refugee camp in Gaza. Three shots were fired in the air, followed by cries of "Allahu Akbar."

But generally, many Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank were relieved that Mr. Rabin was gunned down by an Israeli and not an Arab since the Israeli retaliation could have been crushing.

"If an Arab had killed him, it would have been the end of us," a 38-year-old woman who only identified herself only as Umm Said said in the northern Western Bank town of Nabulus.

Others, however, were sorry that Mr. Rabin was not killed by an Arab to avenge the death of the Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shaqaqi.

In Hebron, a hotbed of Islamic resistance to occupation, said he wished Mr. Rabin had been slain by Hamas or Islamic Jihad, which could have prompted a halt to the peace process.

Mr. Rabin's assassin was a 27-year-old extreme right-wing law student who opposed peace with the Palestinians.

Sympathetic Palestinians were worried that Mr. Rabin's death would slow the peace process. His assassination comes at a delicate turning point in the peace talks. Israel is scheduled to withdraw from major West Bank towns by the end of the year.

The arrival of 12 Palestinian police officers who were due to take up positions in the West Bank town of Jenin was postponed Sunday because of Mr. Rabin's death.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Kadouria Musa said the redeployment of Israeli troops in the area will not begin before Mr. Rabin's funeral.

"The situation is uncertain, we're in a state of waiting. People are sick of the political violence," Mr. Musa said. "Rabin's death is a great loss to the Israeli people and

(Continued on page 2)



TWO LIVES FOR PEACE: File photo shows Yitzhak Rabin (left) greeting Anwar Sadat at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv in 1977. Sadat, who signed the first Arab peace treaty with Israel was killed by Muslim zealots four years later at a military parade in Cairo, while Rabin was shot dead on Nov. 4, 1995 in Tel Aviv by a Jewish fanatic (AFP)

Jordan hopes death of Israeli premier would have no impact on peace process

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Sunday expressed regret and sadness at the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and voiced hope that the death of the Israeli leader would not have negative implications on the Arab-Israeli peace process.

"On behalf of myself and the government I express deep regret for the death of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who worked hard for making peace and keeping peace in this region of the world," the prime minister told journalists at his office.

He said that he did not think the tragic incident will slow down the peace process. However, "it all depends on the (new) Israeli government and its ability to reorganise itself for the sake of

peace."

Sharif Zeid confirmed that His Majesty King Hussein will head a Jordanian delegation to Mr. Rabin's funeral Monday at Jerusalem's Mount Herzl.

He said there was no political implication to the King's attendance at the funeral since it will take place in West Jerusalem.

"Jordan has not changed its stand vis-a-vis Jerusalem," he said. "The funeral will be held in West Jerusalem ... which is not considered an occupied territory."

Sharif Zeid, paying tribute to Mr. Rabin, condemned terrorism and said that Jordan had always stood against violence no matter who is behind it.

"We, and the whole world, will continue to remember his (Mr. Rabin's) courageous stands and initiatives for which he paid his life ... in defence of a just, balanced

and comprehensive peace that halt the forces of hatred and venom from achieving their objectives through violent means," he said.

The prime minister also stressed that "the sudden and shocking" death of Mr. Rabin would not affect the Arab-Israeli peace process nor will it minimise chances of investment in the Middle East. He said that the assassination of Mr. Rabin, at the hands of a Jewish right-wing extremist, will not have negative impact on the image of the region.

"There is (growing) confidence in the stability of the region," he said. "Jordan is known to have a strong stand against terrorism and violence in the region."

Asked if Jordan would be able to cooperate with a future Likud-run government, Sharif Zeid said Jordan was adopting a "wait-and-see" attitude.

"It all depends on the stand and policies of any new (Israeli) government vis-a-vis peace," he said.

Sharif Zeid dismissed suggestions that caretaker Prime Minister Shimon Peres was incapable of having a tight grip on the country's military institutions.

"It is an internal matter," he said. "Israel is a democratic country and the government must have control over all its institutions."

Jordan's Ambassador to Israel Marwan Muasher also condemned the assassination and expressed hope that the Israeli government would overcome the shock.

"We should not let the forces of terrorism and violence on both sides dictate to us the policies of hatred and racism," Mr. Muasher was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. "We should not let them do whatever they like in the region."

Hamas sees major changes in Israel

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) said Sunday that the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will have vast repercussions not only on the peace process but also on the internal fabric of Israeli politics and the future of Palestinian resistance.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh said his movement was not surprised by the killing of the Israeli premier and that as a result of his departure "a huge rock has been removed off the chest of Palestinian resistance."

"Now the Palestinian resistance can breathe," Mr. Ghosheh predicted. "He was a strong and committed man," Mr. Ghosheh said with a hint of respect for his movement's fiercest adversary. But asked

whether he felt any emotion about losing a respected adversary, Mr. Ghosheh said that his movement had been on the receiving end of Mr. Rabin's "most brutal policies and we cannot feel any positive emotion towards him not even if it was respect."

But he said that Mr. Rabin's commitment to his country, Israel, and to the "Zionist policies" was equal in strength to the commitment to Islamic resistance leaders to Palestine.

"If anything, we both, on different ends of the scale, competed to serve our countries," Mr. Ghosheh said. Describing Mr. Rabin as "ruthless," Mr. Ghosheh added in a telephone interview: "It is no secret that Rabin was the architect of the iron-fist policy against Palestinians."

"He was the man who gave the direct orders for the killing of 100 Palestinian fighters in cold blood," he said.

Most importantly, Mr. Ghosheh said: "Rabin was the man who campaigned all over the world against Islam perpetuating the theory that Islam is the force behind extremist terrorism."

"His departure will give us more space in which to explain our position more clearly," Mr. Ghosheh said. Israeli politics and the peace process, Mr. Ghosheh believes, "will never be the same again."

"Israel was at the helm of Middle East politics and Rabin was at the helm of that peak," Mr. Ghosheh said adding that "no other Israeli leader will be able to replace him."

"We will see a breaking of the Israeli political fabric between the two camps, one in favour of peace and another against it," the soft-spoken Islamist predicted.

He dismissed the theory

GCC voices regret

Combined agency dispatches

FOREIGN MINISTERS from the six Gulf Arab states on Sunday said they regretted the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin but were confident the Middle East peace process would continue.

Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah spoke to reporters after a meeting of ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain.

They "exchanged points of view on the future of the peace process after the assassination of Rabin. The group expressed its sorrow over what happened," said the Omani minister.

"There is confidence that the peace process would continue," he said.

The GCC ministers, meeting to prepare for the annual summit of their leaders in December, condemned the U.S. congress vote last month to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

In addition to the GCC statement, Gulf states also reacted individually in Mr. Rabin's murder.

But there was no official reaction from GCC heavyweight Saudi Arabia. Saudi television's afternoon broadcast reported without comment that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was made acting prime minister after Mr. Rabin's death.

It ran file footage of Mr. Rabin in meetings and scenes of him sharing a stage with Mr. Peres. It also displayed Hebrew captions at the bottom of a shot of Israeli police crowding the streets after last night's shooting.

Qatar and Oman publicly condemned the killing and a UAE official told Reuters the emirates condemned the assassination and expressed hope it would not derail the peace process.

In Kuwait, Islamist members of parliament said Mr. Rabin's assassination showed ordinary Israelis did not want peace.

(Continued on page 2)

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Top Russian police officer dismissed for 'treason'

MOSCOW (AP) — A Moscow police officer has been fired for passing classified information to criminal gang, reports said Saturday.

Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov announced the dismissal of Moscow deputy police chief, Major Gen. Valery Aksakov, in a meeting with senior ministry officials Saturday.

Kulikov accused the sacked police general of "treason," the ITAR-TASS news agency said Saturday.

According to ITAR-TASS, Gen. Aksakov allegedly passed classified information on a witness — linked to one of Russia's most notorious recent crimes — to an unidentified criminal group. ITAR-TASS quoted a reliable source as saying that since Gen. Aksakov's leak was deliberate, he might face criminal charges.

Carey foresees women priests in other churches

MADRID (AP) — More than a year and a half after the Church of England began ordaining women priests, its spiritual leader says he thinks all Christian churches will one day have to do the same.

"There is any Christian denomination that will be able to avoid ordaining women as priests in the future," the daily Diario Saturday quoted Archbishop Canterbury, George Carey, as saying.

The church of England ordained its first women priests in March 1994, prompting some speculation about the possibility of a mass exodus from the church. But Archbishop Carey told reporters in Madrid that only 25 priests have quit the Church of England.

About 1,500 women now serve as priests in the Church of England. On Friday, Arch. Carey met with leaders of Spain's predominant Roman Catholic Church as part of his ongoing efforts to increase ecumenical ties.

Arch. Carey was in Madrid to ordain the bishop of the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church, Carlos Lopez Lozano, on Sunday.

Brazilian firm asks Hillary Clinton

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — After the U.S. embassy complained, Duloren Lingerie Company pulled a controversial advertisement featuring American First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton with her undergarments showing, the Rio daily Globo reported Saturday.

Duloren Vice-President Roni Algarbi confirmed the company's decision: "We didn't create the reputation we had expected."

Many complained. "We wouldn't have been surprised if President Clinton had even called," the company said.

The ad's centerpiece was a revealing photo taken during a recent visit to Brazil by Mrs. Clinton. The photo depicts a seated Mrs. Clinton and shows a glimpse of her undergarments in this area.

It caused a sensation in Brazil, and the Duloren Lingerie company acquired it for an ad campaign. The text accompanying the photo said, in Portuguese: "Mr. President of the United States of America, your excellency, can you imagine what Duloren can do?" Below, in smaller print, it read: "A tribute to one of the most important women of the decade."

Continued agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN leaders in Arafat on Monday said they were not surprised by the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Arafat stayed in Amman and did not attend the ceremony in Jerusalem.

He was represented by a spokesman who said: "We are expressing our strong concern to the Brazilian government."

Mr. Arafat's spokesman Lucille Dipalma said that he was a real man in the peace process. He lost his life for the cause of peace.

He said that the assassination of Mr. Arafat was a tragedy for the entire Arab world.

He said that the assassination of Mr. Arafat was a tragedy for the entire Arab world.